Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-154 *10 August 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

Hamas 'Fears' of Abu-Marzuq Extradition Increase

Spokesman on Efforts To Stop Extradition

JN1008090395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Aug 95 pp 32, 25

[Report by Samir al-Hijjawi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Ibrahim Ghashah, official spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], has said that his movement's "fears about the possible extradition of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas Political Bureau, to the Zionist state have increased."

He added that "these fears are increasing, especially since the U.S. court took into consideration the so-called evidence provided by the Zionist leadership and gave it more than the requested time limit of two months."

He said: "It seems that the court basically depends on the evidence provided by the Zionist authorities, something which has resulted in excluding the two other options of either trying him in the United States or returning him to the country from which he had arrived in the United States; that is, the United Arab Emirates.

He said: "What is going on in the United States is a trial of Dr. Abu-Marzuq on the basis of Zionist evidence. Developments so far indicate that the next move will be extraditing him to the Zionist authorities."

He said: "The Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation are required to deal with the detention of Abu-Marzuq seriously and not to let the detention of Abu-Marzuq pass as if nothing has happened."

Asked about Hamas' reaction in case the United States extradites Abu-Marzuq to Israel, Ghawshah said: "It is premature to talk about this supposition."

He added that the Hamas movement is carrying out a political, media, popular, and diplomatic campaign to pressure the U.S. Administration not to extradite Abu-Marzuq and to release him. [passage omitted]

Hamas Criticizes U.S. Handling of Case

NC0908195595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has made new threats against the United States. It stressed that there is a U.S.-Israeli plot to hand over Hamas official Abu-Marzuq, who has been detained in the United States, to Israel. In a statement released in Damascus, Hamas said that the United States has so far ignored all official and popular calls to release the chief of Hamas political bureau. We consider this a flagrant defiance of the feelings of Muslims, particularly the Palestinians.

Hamas Warns U.S. Not To Extradite

JN0908185295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Statement by Hamas; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, views as very serious the arrest by the FBI of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq after the U.S. Immigration Department postponed its decision to look into the alleged violation of local laws, as well as the Zionist request to extradite him.

The U.S. Administration's rearrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq at the request of the Zionists proves that this administration bows completely to pressures from the Zionist lobby and that the United States and the Zionist entity have secretly concocted a political conspiracy.

This step asserts that the arrest was a purely political measure taken because of Dr. Abu-Marzuq's political views and doctrines, which conflict with the U.S. viewpoint.

The U.S. authorities deal with this arrest in a clearly treacherous and wicked manner. While they were claiming the arrest to be just a legal procedure, these authorities held secret contacts with the government of terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin to level false accusations against Dr. Abu-Marzuq, to harm the regional and international reputation and status of the Hamas movement, and to distract Hamas from its struggle against Zionist colonialists.

The Clinton Administration has rejected all the official and popular appeals for the release of Dr. Abu-Marzuq and insisted on making a grave political mistake by continuing to hold him. This will have negative and grave results. The U.S. authorities have also turned a deaf ear to the voice of reason and logic—a voice which has echoed throughout the world—while they allowed the Zionist hissing to influence them and make them adopt Zionist positions, which will not serve anything other than the Zionist interests in the final analysis.

The U.S. Administration's step is considered an open defiance to the feelings of the Arabs, Muslims, and Palestinians, who stood by the Hamas movement and urged the U.S. Administration to go back on its decision that will draw strong reaction from the liberation forces throughout the world.

We, in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, warn President Bill Clinton's administration not to hand over

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Dr. Abu-Marzuq to the Zionist enemy authorities and also stress that it is wrong for the United States to take this step, which is a red line that should not be crossed. We also warn them not to become a direct party in the conflict between our people and the Zionist occupation—a move which will have grave consequences.

Hamas movement is very seriously studying the new hostile U.S. step, and it will take an appropriate position. The movement will safeguard the dignity of its political leaders and will ensure their release in any way available to it.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas

Hamas Against Acceptance of Redeployment Plan

JN0908182595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has issued a statement on the acceptance by 'Arafat's authority to schedule the so-called redeployment of the enemy forces in the Palestinian West Bank, and viewed this as a new submission to the Zionist blackmail.

Hamas said this acceptance emphasizes that this authority accepts most of the Zionist demands on the implementation of the second stage of Oslo agreement. It added that the self-rule authority's acceptance of the phased redeployment of the enemy forces in the West bank, and subsequent acceptance of phased implementation of the second stage self-rule is another dangerous concession by an authority that is isolated from the Palestinian people.

Vows To Fight Redeployment Deal

NC0908173895 Paris AFP in English 1658 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Aug 9 (AFP) — The Palestinian militant group Hamas vowed Wednesday [9 August] to work against the new timetable agreed between Israel and the PLO for an army redeployment on the West Bank.

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, said: "We consider the latest accord as null and void because it strengthens the Zionist occupation and colonisation of our land, while isolating Palestinian villages.

"We will take action to fight these dangerous consequences," the group added in a statement issued in Damascus. "The Palestinian authorities' acceptance of a staggered redeployment of Israeli forces and the linking of implementation of the clauses of this accord to Zionist security constitute serious new concessions made to the enemy."

Israel and the PLO announced on Tuesday that they had agreed a timetable for an Israeli troop redeployment outside Palestinian areas in the West Bank in four stages over about two years.

Under the accord, the troops will initially withdraw from Palestinian towns before elections to an autonomy council and then pull back from the rest of the territory, occupied since 1967, in three six-monthly phases.

Hamas, Islamic Jihad Threaten Reprisals Over al-Aqsa

MM0908130295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Hamas and Islamic Jihad Threaten Reprisals Against Israeli Aggression"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine have agreed to consider the Israeli court's decision, which allowed Jews to pray in al-Aqsa Mosque on the anniversary of the destruction of Solomon's Temple the day before yesterday, as an attempt at the Judaization of Jerusalem and the holy mosque. The two organizations condemned the decision in two separate statements, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, threatened reprisals against this action, and reaffirmed adherence to the "jihad" option.

The Hamas statement said that the Israeli court's decision was "a link in the chain of plots aimed at partitioning al-Aqsa Mosque prior to its takeover." The statement added: "The Zionist enemy should be fully aware that its repeated acts of aggression on the Ascension Point [the point of departure for the prophet's midnight journey to the seven heavens] of our prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and the first Qibla [direction to which Muslims turn in praying] will not remain unavenged. The price for these acts of aggression will be very high and painful."

The statement of the Islamic Jihad Movement said that the Israeli court's decision "was a dangerous development in the struggle with the Zionist enemy, as the hateful Zionist decision comes as an extension to the policy of Judaization of the holy city alongside the continuation of archeological digs around al-Aqsa Mosque, aimed primarily at the destruction of the mosque and the building of what is known as the temple on the site. These measures are intended to complete the seizure of land and the establishment of new housing areas for the benefit of the Zionist settlers, with the aim

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of achieving total control over East Jerusalem, having already succeeded in the total Judaization of the western part of the city."

The statement also said: "We reaffirm our adherence to the struggle and resistance option as the only choice to deter aggression, liberate Palestine, and protect the holy places from the Zionist foe."

Official: Hamas Halts Attacks 'Temporarily'

TA1008045095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior Palestinian security official says that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has temporarily halted terrorist attacks for fear of negative reaction among Palestinians. In an interview with a Qol Yisra'el reporter, General Zakariya Ba'lushah said that Hamas did not agree to stop carrying out attacks altogether. Ba'lushah said Hamas proposed a plan to remove tension in advance of the Palestinian elections, but the Palestinian Authority rejected it.

In a related development, a Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that the Democratic Front of Nayif Hawatimah has request from Yasir 'Arafat permission for 20 of its activists to enter the autonomous areas. Israeli security sources told the Qol Yisra'el reporter that there is no change in Israeli policy, which bars PLO activists opposed to the Oslo agreement from entering the territories.

Police Arrest Hamas Activists To Prevent Attacks

TA1008085195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At dawn today the Palestinian Police arrested five Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Gaza's Zaytun neighborhood. Police sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that these were preemptive arrests were meant to thwart attacks on Israeli targets.

A closure that will last through 11 August was imposed on the Gaza Strip last night. The closure is meant to prevent terror attacks.

Plan To Counter Settlers Reportedly Being Formed

TA1008102095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinians have been working on a comprehensive action plan to counter the settlers' "campaign on the hills" throughout the West Bank and the continued confiscation of land by Israel. The action plan is being coordinated with the Palestinian Authority [PA] and will encompass a number of Palestinian organizations, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other opposition groups.

The Islamic National Struggle Committee Against the Settlements plans a week of activities during which they will hold several protest marches and processions, set up tents in areas where the settlers build encampments, call a general strike in those villages near the Green Line which Israel has declared will remain under its security control, announce a day of activities dedicated to underscoring the fact that Jerusalem is an inseparable part of the West Bank. Protest actions will also be held against the paving of bypass roads by Israel, which the Palestinians regard as a means to perpetuate Israeli rule and the existence of the settlements in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Official: Settlers Can Become Palestinian Citizens

TA0908112095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian Police, has said that Israeli settlers in Judaea and Samaria will be able to stay in the area once the peace process was concluded if they agreed to become Palestinian citizens. He said that this was possible just like Israel has Arab citizens.

Yusuf was speaking to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem. He disclosed that a group of 170 Palestinian policemen, which will operate in Judaea and Samaria, are scheduled to arrive from Algeria within several days.

Police Chief Interviewed on Security

MS1008122695 London INDEPENDENT in English 10 Aug 95 p 15

[Report on interview with Police Chief, Major-General Nasr Yusuf, by Robert Fisk; place and date not given: "Joke Sours For PLO's Laughing Policeman"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City — In the ante-room, Brigadier-General Ziad al-Atrash [name as published], head of Palestinian joint security — the man who liaises with the Israeli army to stop attacks against Israelis — is checking his diary. A thick black walking stick in his left hand is topped by the brass head of a savage-looking eagle.

Armed men come and go, some in civilian clothes, others in uniform, all seeking appointments with Major-General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police, hero of Golan, Palestine Liberation Organisation fighter in Lebanon, refugee from 1948 Palestine. And when I walk through General Nasr's door — its

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Israeli security lock snapping open at the touch of a card — there is the great, bespectacled man, all smiles, overweight perhaps but smartly uniformed, a big clammy hand extended in welcome.

He is an optimist. "How do you think we're doing in the Palestinian authority?" he asks. So I mention the endless delays in implementation of the Palestinian agreements with Israel, the continued presence of Israeli troops in Gaza, the suicide bombs, the continued settlement building, the midnight courts, the deaths in custody, Amnesty International... Indeed, at the very moment I arrive in the general's office, Palestinian security men are arresting 'Imad al-Faluji, an editor of the Hamas newspaper AL- WATAN, and are taking him to an unknown destination. The only reports to appear on this the next day are in Israeli newspapers.

"All peace treaties are imposed by a leverage of power and so is this one," the general replies. "But look, after 1917 the 'world order' of the period gave the Jews a homeland and divided us. In 1948, another 'world order' created the state of Israel and nullified the Palestinians from both the geographic and demographic map.

"But now we have managed to relocate ourselves on the international map and re-establish our identity as Palestinians. It is the first time we have shouldered the responsibility of our people and it gives us the chance to rebuild what was destroyed by the occupation in Gaza: the economy and society and the culture. The Palestinian entity is now international, created under the same resolutions that created Israel."

But that's not true, I reply. Israel was internationally recognised by the United Nations no UN resolutions guarantee the PLO's agreement with Israel. "OK," General Nasr replies, "OK — but no one can shoulder the responsibility of destroying the peace process. The Jewish settlers have two options: to evacuate (Palestinian territory) or to become Palestinian citizens. Israel can't have both the peace and the land...

"Things are not easy, it's true. But there is an existing reality — a fact: three million Palestinians are on the ground, in the West Bank and in Gaza. Israel has two choices: independence for the Palestinians or a complete merger with the Palestinians — but they can't keep on with their imperialistic policy (of occupation). They can't expel these Palestinian people and they are keen to cooperate with what exists."

So what of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and their suicide bombers? The general divides both groups into "moderates" and "extremists" — a dodgy enough formula even if there were evidence to support it — and comes up with the equation that democracy and economic progress equals less violence. The Israelis and Americans agree with the economic argument. As for democracy, even Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO chairman and the general's commander-in-chief, might have doubts about that.

"We have to allow all concerned parties to participate in democracy," the general says. "The democratic formula must be guaranteed by law and regulations. This formula will assist greatly in the growth of peaceful opposition." So what about the secret courts, the midnight arrests? General Nasr emits a long and merry chuckle. "You will have to ask the chairman about this," he said.

And Amnesty's recent damning report on human rights abuses in Gaza? The general's hand comes down firmly on his desk. "I want to tell you something," he says. "I have today just finished a long reply to Amnesty and elaborated to them upon all these issues. No doubt the practices we have here need excuses or reasons. But our current stage is a very difficult one. In the past, we had security for the PLO, we were responsible only for members of our organisation. Now we are responsible for our society and community. We have to change all aspects of our behaviour to break away from the revolutionary period.

"We may commit some violations but we are exerting more efforts in training our cadres and hopefully we'll reach some positive results. Our people are in very great need of security. I read all Amnesty's reports on Israel as well as Gaza. They are always welcome in Gaza. I thank them for telling us any mistakes."

All this may sound fair enough. But it is the PLO's constant refrain that it is bound to make "mistakes" during what it calls "this transitional period" and it is a fact — not admitted by the general, of course, but well known among the men he calls his "cadres" — that Mr 'Arafat has sidelined the optimistic, humanitarian commander of the Palestinian police, who now probably has more antagonists within the PLO's security apparatus than he has in Hamas.

Put bluntly, General Nasr is too nice. Ask how many prisoners are held in Gaza and he says: "Only about 150". Ask when they will be released and he shakes with laughter once more — for all of 15 seconds and says yet again: "Why don't you ask the chairman?"

In the Palestinian police headquarters, however, it is not so much the prisoners — incarcerated just across the road from where we are sitting, in the old Israeli jail — that catch the visitor's attention: it is the uniforms. The police are dressed like soldiers. Police commander Nasr Yusuf is a major-general rather than a chief constable; indeed he is still using his nom de guerre, his real name

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being Mustafa Bishtawi. Most of the men round 'Arafat on official occasions wear military uniform. Indeed, Gaza seems awash with generals and brigadier-generals and major-generals.

"You mean you want to see Abu Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat) wear a suit and tie? Yes, this would be good," the general says. When will that happen, I ask.

"You must ask the chairman," he roars, and I get the big clammy hand in mine again, a promise to chat once more in a few months' time, when — so he assures me — peace has been consolidated further. And as I leave his offices, past armed and uniformed security men, down a long staircase where plainclothes men with guns are standing guard, I come across a young man trudging up the steps. He is carrying a dozen massive flak jackets for the staff — military ones, khaki in colour, all brand new. Yes the people clearly need security.

PNC Holds Meeting, Gives Statement on Jerusalem

JN0908171295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 27

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] has called for an Islamic summit conference and for an urgent meeting of the Jerusalem Committee to put an end to the Israeli conspiracy to Judaize Jerusalem.

In an extraordinary meeting called for by PNC Acting Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, held at the council headquarters in Amman yesterday, the PNC members said the Israeli Supreme Court ruling is a dangerous step for the Palestinian-Israeli track and is a step toward Judaizing the holy city.

In a statement following the meeting, the PNC members said: The Israeli court ruling is invalid because it considered Jerusalem an Israeli territory and not a territory Israel occupied in 1967.

The PNC stressed that the Israeli measures concerning the holy mosque conflict with international laws and resolutions and the divine religions, and that Israel has no right to implement such rulings.

The council said: the purpose of usurping the al-Aqsa Mosque is to demolish it and to build the temple in its place, although allegations of the so-called Temple Mount Faithful that the temple is on the al-Aqsa Mosque's site proved to be baseless.

The council members said any Palestinian, Arab, or Muslim will not accept the loss of Jerusalem regardless of the sacrifices and the long struggle.

The council hailed the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem in particular and the occupied territories in general, and stressed the importance of coordination with the parliamentarians in Jordan and Arab countries to stop the Judaization of Jerusalem and the Palestinian shrines.

Hails King Husayn's Efforts

JN0908170095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a cable from Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], in which he expressed, in his name and in the names of council members in Jordan who are holding an extraordinary meeting, their deep appreciation for his majesty's positions in defense and support of the Palestine question in general, and holy Jerusalem in particular.

The cable says: We value the statement issued by your government, and we are confident that you will make active and influential efforts with the peace cosponsor, especially the United States, the international organizations, and the Security Council to pressure the Israeli Government to commit itself to the international resolutions adopted on Jerusalem.

The cable also says: The decision made by the Israeli Supreme Court is a dangerous step toward Judaizing Arab Jerusalem, including the divine religious shrines, and is a blatant violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which say the past Israeli measures are null and void. This step is also a clear violation of the peace agreements concluded with Israel, and makes a just and comprehensive peace difficult to achieve.

Egyptian Delegation To Supervise Elections

TA0908150295 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 6

[Report by Mustafa al-Sawwaf]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office — Mahmud Karim, the Egyptian ambassador to the Palestinian Authority [PA], confirmed the Egyptian Arab Republic's participation in monitoring the Palestinian elections that will be held in the [PA] areas under the EU's international supervision.

The Egyptian ambassador added that the Egyptian delegation will include 17 members from the People's Assembly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the body supervising elections at the Ministry of the Interior.

In another development, Mahmud Karim affirmed that the Egyptian delegation participating in the refugee talks

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will arrive in the Gaza Strip on 15 August to participate in the quadripartite committee meetings on refugees that will be held in the Gaza Strip on 16 and 17 August.

The Egyptian ambassador added that the Egyptian delegation to the talks will be led by Ambassador Badr Himam, deputy foreign minister for Arab affairs; Wajih Hanafi, adviser to the foreign minister on legal affairs; and Secretary Hisham Shu'ayb.

The ambassador explained that the meetings will discuss the number of those displaced after the 1967 war and the mechanisms and means for repatriating them.

Egypt has already handed the Palestinian delegation a list of one hundred thousand Palestinians living in Egypt.

It is worth mentioning that the quadripartite committee on refugees includes Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel.

Merger of Two Political Movements Announced

TA0908160995 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 9

[Report by Zaki Abu-al-Halawah and Muhammad Abu-Khudayr]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An announcement was made yesterday on the merger of two political movements — the Movement for Change and the Democratic National Grouping — within a single political framework called the National Movement for Change.

The announcement was made during a news conference held at Jerusalem's al-Qasabah Theater by the movement's officials.

The National Movement for Change affirmed its adherence to the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. It also affirmed that it is a principal part of the political components that the PLO represents.

Khadr al-Maghribi, the leader of the movement, read a press statement in which he explained the movement's goals, strategy, and program.

He said that the movement affirms its commitment to the Palestinian-Israeli peace plan as a framework, since peace and coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples is the only rational option for sparing the region further destruction and bloodshed.

He said that the movement categorically rejects any kind of political or social violence since that contradicts the movement's peaceful policy and the democratic national construction program. [passage omitted]

The statement called on Arab states to reject any bargaining aimed at normalizing relations with Israel before a final, comprehensive, and just solution of the Palestinian problem is reached.

Islamic Bank Begins Operating in Territories

TA0908135095 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Islamic Bank was established two days ago in the territories with the support of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Some of the founders of the bank are identified with moderate Muslim circles, mainly from the Muslim Brotherhood. The idea to establish this bank is two years old, but the Israeli Civil Administration has so far not authorized its activity.

Fu'ad Busaysu, governor of the PA Monetary Authority, granted the bank its initial operating license under a new regulation published by the PA two days ago — "Regulation No. 1 regarding the licensing and supervision of local capital and banks." In the first stage, it will have branches in Gaza and Jericho. Additional branches will open in West Bank cities once Palestinian rule is established there.

The bank's initial capital stands at $10 million, 75 percent of which were provided by investors from the territories, Jordan, and Gulf states, and the rest will come from options to be issued to the public. Among the investing bodies are the International Islamic Bank of Qatar and Faysal Bank, a Saudi bank operating in Bahrain.

One of the founders of the bank is Ahmad 'Abidin, a former head of the Bethlehem Islamic Association. The bank will operate in accordance with Islamic laws which prevent collecting interest on loans it gives. Instead, the bank will become an associate partner of clients seeking credit for their business.

Another financial institute — the Palestinian House of Finance, officially defined as a financial company, not a bank — has been operating for more than a year, and is affiliated with moderate Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] circles and also follows Islamic laws. Another bank, the Islamic Arabic Bank, received a permit to operate three months ago, but was not yet given an operating license by the PA. In fact, this is a subsidiary of the Bank of Jordan whose activity Israel approved last year. In practice, the Islamic Arabic Bank serves religious Muslim clients who are willing to deposit money and receive loans without any interest. Similar options are offered by other banks operating in the territories.

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Currently, there are 28 bank branches operating in the territories. Most of them received Civil Administration permits over the past year — such as the Bank of Jordan, the First Mercantile Bank in Palestine, the Arab Bank, the Bank al-'Iqari, and more. Rumors recently have spread in the territories that these banks are not fulfilling their role as a financial tool that is supposed to boost the economy in the territories because they have been avoiding making investments in the territories due to the instability there. The banks also avoid granting personal loans for fear they will not be honored. Large amounts of the banks' money are being transferred to Jordan and other countries and invested in stocks and in other ventures there.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Peres Continue Negotiations in Taba

'Arafat Assesses Talks

JN0908115395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Taba; from "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet at the Hilton Hotel in Taba this afternoon to continue their talks on the issues which are still obstructing the arrival at a final agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles which concerns redeployment, the holding of legislative elections, and the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority.

Answering a question on his assessment of the meetings he had with Peres in the past two days, 'Arafat said: We have not achieved anything yet.

'Arafat made a brief tour of Taba, in which he was accompanied by Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman. He visited Salah-al-Din Castle, where the castle's supervisor briefed President 'Arafat on the various sections and history of the castle.

The Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams continue their meetings which started this morning in the Elat area. During their talks today, the Palestinian delegation, headed by Ahmad Quray', minister of trade and economy, and the Israeli delegation, headed by Uri Savir, will seek to bridge the gap between the two sides. They will also work on drafting what has been agreed upon in the recent rounds of negotiations. The heads of the two delegations will brief President 'Arafat and Peres on the outcome of today's round to arrive at an agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

It seems that the two sides are determined to achieve agreement during this round of talks.

Peres Says Progress Made

TA0908152495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has left Taba for consultations in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the ministers involved in the negotiations with the Palestinians. Prior to leaving Taba, Minister Peres said that efforts are under way to attain a package deal to involve all the issues included in the negotiations. Referring to the security issue, Shim'on Peres said Israel is unwilling to make any compromises. He also said that constant progress is being made in the negotiations.

Our political correspondent reports from Taba that Shim'on Peres is slated to return to the place at 2130 [1830 GMT] to continue the talks with 'Arafat, which have been going on for three days now.

Earlier, a member of 'Arafat's delegation said the Taba talks may result in the initialing of a draft agreement as soon as tonight. He said that Israeli and Palestinian officials in the last few hours have come up with proposals that can bridge the gaps, adding that if Peres and 'Arafat approve them a draft agreement will be reached.

'Arafat Adviser Notes 'Difficult Stage'

NC0908161895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Taba, 9 Aug (MENA)— Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres concluded their third working session that started earlier today.

Peres has returned to Israel to consult with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He is expected to return to Taba later today for another meeting with 'Arafat.

'Arafat adviser Marwan Kanafani said that the talks, held yesterday and today, are going through a very difficult stage. He told reporters today that each side had put forward some ideas and proposals in the context of efforts to keep the peace process and negotiations going until agreement is reached on implementing the provisions of the Declaration of Principles on Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

He pointed out that the only accomplishment so far is the timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from all of the West Bank. He remarked that this is bound to preserve the rights of Palestinians in all the territories, as well as all their powers.

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'Arafat toured the city of Taba this morning in the company of Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information. He visited the historic castle of Salah-al-Din.

'Informed Sources' View Talks

TA1008044495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will meet again at noon today in Taba in a bid to put in writing the understandings reached in the talks so far. After attending the consultation summoned by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the foreign minister flew back from Jerusalem to Taba, where he and 'Arafat conferred for over two hours last night.

Foreign Minister Peres told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the document they will try to conclude in writing will encompass some five or six key issues.

Spokesmen in the Palestinian delegation said that the outstanding disagreements concern Hebron and the area to remain in Israel's hands.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 10 August carries a related report on page 1 by David Makovsky, adding that "informed sources said last night" that "Peres will make no written commitment to the Palestinians on the extent of Israel's pullback from non-populated rural areas."

["Peres refused to commit Israel to transferring precise amounts of territory at any of three stages planned over an 18-month period, nor will there be a commitment on the total amount of land to be transferred."

["Some observers believe Peres verbally promised PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to conditionally transfer the bulk of non-populated rural areas after the 1996 election. One Palestinian said the fact that Israel did not commit itself in writing to a precise territorial handover of the rural areas means: 'We have gone from DOP (Declaration of Principles) to TOP or trusting of principals'."

["In return for 'Arafat's concession on the transfer of rural areas, sources said they expect the PLO leader to win visible concessions that are important to him." The sources said that 'Arafat "is expected to gain a foothold in Hebron and a significant release of Palestinian prisoners" and that he "would like" Israel to expel "the nearly 400 Jews living in Hebron."]

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Algeria

Car Bomb Reportedly Injures 3 Persons

LD0908175095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a statement by the security services, a booby-trapped car exploded last night near the headquarters of Ben-Aknoun Municipality Headquarters and slightly injured three passers-by. After receiving first aid, the injured returned to their homes.

The explosion caused partial damage to four offices but did not affect the running of the affairs of Ben-Aknoun Municipality.

Seven People Killed in Bomb Attack on Train

LD0908182895 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 0907 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven people were killed in an attack on a train by an armed Islamist group near Medea, LA TRIBUNE reports on 9 August. Homemade bombs exploded as the train went by.

A car bomb exploded on 8 August near the Ben Aknou town hall.

Five passersby were seriously wounded in this attack, and the town hall was entirely destroyed, according to sources.

Government, FIS 'on Verge' of Resuming Talks

MM0908173995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Algeria: Authorities and FIS Renew Contacts]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Reliable Algerian sources confirmed to AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Algerian Government and the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] were on the verge of resuming talks. They also indicated that the government had agreed on "clandestine talks" between the two parties and wanted contacts to remain secret. The government and the FIS recently held talks that ended in failure in spite of several common denominators in their proposals.

The sources said that the FIS Leader Shaykh Abassi Madani was still in the [Algerian] capital but refused to disclose the exact location while the place of detention of his deputy Shaykh Ali Belhadj was unknown. The sources confirmed the return of Shaykh Abdelkader Hachani to the Serkadji prison in the capital. All three shaykhs participated in the failed talks with the government during the last two months. The sources pointed to the fact that the FIS shaykhs who are free are still not permitted to undertake any political activity. They also said that the two shaykhs Ali Djedi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham did not participate in any action or meeting organized by the National Covenant parties during the past weeks. They rejected the justification that the government prevented them from engaging in political activity if undertaken under the auspices of the FIS because it is an illegal organization. They insisted that the government "does not differentiate between their [the shaykhs'] activities, be they on individual or party level."

Sources from the National Covenant parties yesterday denied the existence of splits in their ranks relating to talks with the presidency. They pointed out that the National Covenant parties had taken a unified stand in refusing President Liamine Zeroual's invitation to the consultations for the formation of a committee to supervise the elections, expected before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

Factors Prompting Phosphate Workers Strike Cited

95AF0116A Rabat AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 4 Jun 95 p 1

[Unattributed article]

[FBIS Translated Text] Among the reasons phosphate workers embarked upon the 3 May strike, and for which they will launch a 48-hour strike on 6-7 June, are poor working conditions in the phosphate sector. In Jorf Lasfar Chemicals, for example, workers suffer from polluted drinking water plus a lack of cleaning equipment in toilets and areas reserved for eating. Workers consume enough to keep body and soul together in the open air and are thus exposed to phosphate and cement dust and poison acidic gases, to say nothing of the din—according to one technician—which is louder than internationally recognized standards. The deafness of several workers has been attributed to this, the best proof of which is the fact that a large number of workers were recently referred by a doctor in the Jorf Lasfar to an ear specialist for medical examination.

Furthermore, a worker representative adds, the office administration of the phosphate inspector does not respect specialization, something which resulted in the workers being exposed to on-the-job accidents that could have led to deaths; actual occurrences were recorded.

Even more dangerous, says the same source, is the fact that there is no law on chemicals. The law on mines is applied to chemicals, and the engineers charged with

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monitoring health and safety in the chemicals sector are not chemists. This was confirmed in the symposium organized by the National Phosphate Syndicate (the C.D.Sh.) in coordination with the French SJT on the topic of health and safety. The engineer representing the ministry formulated the instructions for the mines engineer and had nothing to do with chemicals, while the workers' representatives constantly submit reports to the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in vain.

What was provoking was that this symposium, which included representatives from management, was attended by 15 workers to whom management had refused to grant permission to attend. They attended anyway, and not only did management dock them for the days they were "idle" from work, it punished them. This punishment was extended to the safety delegates who, administratively, are part of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech Marks Prophet's Birthday

NC1008055795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1902 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at a ceremony marking the birthday of Prophet Muhammad at the Conference Hall in Alexandria Library —live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Muslims living in various corners of the world today expect, and even trust, that civilized people who might not share our Islamic religion or culture will follow our course and be inspired just like us with the essence preached by the heavenly religions and cultural values, that is, the principles of tolerance and coexistence and abandoning hateful ethnic fanaticism and reckless religious fanaticism, whose apects are barbarically running wild in an unprecedented manner in certain areas inhabited by some Islamic people, states like Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is high time that these uncivilized actions that have provoked feelings of condemnation and denunciation by all people, both Muslims and non-Muslims, are stopped. It is high time that the international community took a joint stand to restore peace and security for these peoples before the world is plunged into an abyss of crazy fanaticism that might destroy all the values and civilizations of mankind.

Al-Azhar rector, revered ulema, brothers, sisters, and sons: The events of the past few years and the conflict between this and that Muslim country is foreign to Islam. What is still stranger is what is happening between two factions in the same Muslim country. What is more astonishing and shocking are these acts of terrorism by certain groups against some sons of the nation, particularly against those serving the nation and striving to promote its interests and protect it. This terrorism totally contradicts the value of security and is hostile to peace, the foundations of which were laid by Islam.

Organized plotting and terrorism are purely criminal acts. We can imagine that such actions are committed by hirelings and organized gangs who take no notice of religion or ethics, nor do they respect any principles other than material gain. These groups accomplish nothing other than comitting crimes.

We can imagine that the gangs that produce, smuggle, and sell narcotics resort to plotting and terrorism. These gangs spread deadly poisons among the people. They protect their racketeering by resorting to secret plotting and brutal terrorism. But we cannot imagine that groups and even nations and governments hide behind the cloak of religion and claim they advocate reform yet resort to criminal plotting and aggressive terrorism. There is no religion that sanctions shedding innocent blood, terrifying peaceful citizens, and killing those whose fate only God Almighty controls.

All religions affirm the sanctity of human life, surround it with guarantees of safety, and work for its peace and security. Islam has forbidden suicide, equating such an act with atheism. Man is God's creation and his soul is derived from God's soul. No one has the right to take another person's life. Only God has this right. [passage omitted]

We know that the disease of terrorism that has recently spread widely is international and not exclusive to some stray groups in our nation. What is exclusive to these groups, and even some countries and governments, is that they carry out acts of terror in the name of religion and falsely wave the pure banner of Islam to cover up their crimes. [passage omitted]

Hence, those terrorists hiding behind the cloak of Islam are perpetrators of a crime uglier than the crimes of other terrorists. This is because those who hide behind the cloak of religion add to their crime and aggression a worse crime against religion, to which they falsely belong.

A common misconception is that these terrorists who falsely hide behind the cloak of religion justify their behavior by calling themselves maujahidin and fedayeen. They are liars and deceivers. Mujahidin and fedayeen fight the enemies of their homelands and sacrifice themselves to expel the occupiers of their land. These terrorists perpetrate their plotting and direct their weapons against their own kinsfolk and innocent people from other nations who have not harmed them or

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plotted against them. This plotting and terrorism is not jihad but blatant aggression and a despicable crime that requires punishment and retribution in line with God's saying: "In the law of equality there is life to you, O men of understanding; that ye may restrain yourselves." [Koranic verse]

What type of jihad is practiced by those who assassinate a politician or a patriot who has his own view, doctrine, and style; or a thinker who has his own opinions; or a security man who performs his duties? What type of jihad is committed by those who blow up cars or throw bombs to tear the bodies of innocent people, spill the blood of children, and injure those who have no political role? Those who have distorted the call of real jihad for false and corrupt motives are distorting God's words, falsifying the Islamic creed, and twisting true Islamic thought. They are a pestilence and a calamity to the nation of Islam and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Rector of al-Azhar, Reverend Scholars, Brothers, Sisters, and Sons: Perhaps you agree with me that it is everyone's duty to not appease these conspiratorial and terrorist gangs, be they individuals or governments. We must cooperate to contain these gangs, resist them, and eradicate them. The brave army of resistance must have the learned Muslim scholars, preachers, and thinkers in the forefront. Hope is pinned on them to confront this conspiratorial terrorism that is threatening peace and security and committing crimes and aggression that deeply hurts the principles of Islam. Scholars of other religions and thinkers who are concerned about human values must devote their efforts to fighting the world terrorism phenomenon, which is greatly harming human civilization. [passage omitted]

If all the forces of good in the world are called upon to cooperate in order to achieve peace and eliminate all causes of wars, all these forces are also called upon with the same enthusiasm to cooperate in warring on terrorism and wiping it out where ever it may be, particularly those who hide behind the religion. [passage omitted]

Article Views Status of Muslim Brotherhood

MS0908133395 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 9 Aug 95 p 4

[Article by James Whittington: "Egypt's Islamists: Proscribed or Provoked?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After Friday prayers at noon, millions of Egyptians from all walks of life stream out of Cairo's mosques into the streets. United by the act of Islamic worship, they mingle for a while before returning home to the humdrum of daily life.

Among them are members of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB], Egypt's largest, and technically banned, opposition movement which aims to replace the current government with an Islamic theocracy. They distribute news and information on religious classes, community services and other activities in the hope of adding to their supporters.

Although often harried, the Brotherhood has, until recently, been by and large tolerated by President Husni Mubarak. But with an eye to circumventing any political gains they might make in parliamentary elections to be held in November, the regime has since January turned decisively against them.

Despite the predictable outcome of Egyptian elections, members of the Brotherhood say they had planned to fight this year's poll far more seriously than previous ones. They got into parliament twice in the 1980s under the wing of legal opposition parties and boycotted the last elections in 1990. This time they were expecting to capitalise on the government's decision to allow candidates to stand as individuals rather than on lists.

In preparation, an internal reorganisation at the end of last year had selected key candidates to lead the campaign. In an attempt to attract a wider constituency, the Brotherhood announced it would not try to change Egypt's constitution once it entered the People's Assembly.

However, hundreds of arrests of prominent members and prospective parliamentary candidates since the beginning of this year — and intensified after the assassination attempt in June on Mr Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa by Egyptian Islamist militants — has scuppered their plans and caused consternation in the rank and file.

About 200 mainly young members were apprehended at the end of last month in the largest move against the Brotherhood since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981 by Islamists within the army.

Some commentators in Cairo argue that the government's new strategy runs the risk of pushing Egypt's moderate fundamentalists into violence. Mr Fahmi Huwaydi, a prominent Islamist writer for the semi-official daily AL-AHRAM, compares it with the mistake made by Algeria's government when it upset the Islamic Salvation Front by cancelling parliamentary elections in 1992.

"The difference between Egypt and Algeria until now is that the government here has been fighting the extremists. If they move to fight the moderates as well, then we are moving closer to an Algerian scenario," he says.

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A fierce internal debate as to how the Brotherhood should respond goes some way to support this argument. Before the crackdown, a new generation of members were patiently waiting for elderly leaders, such as Mr Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, the Supreme Guide, and his deputy, Mr Mustafa Mashour, to stand aside and let some young blood in at the top. But with potential successors, such as Mr Ibrahim al Zafarani and Mr 'Isam al-'Iryan now in jail, many of the younger generation are calling for a more confrontational stance.

"The younger ones among us are constantly restless and frustrated," says Mr Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, one of the Brotherhood's older leaders. "There is a feeling of disappointment that co-existence is no longer working. We are having to explain why."

Many members of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiya, which has been waging a largely unsuccessful guerrilla war against the government since 1992, have admitted to once being members of the Brotherhood which they left because they considered it too moderate.

Even though it was officially banned in 1954 by President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, the Brotherhood has grown from its inception in 1928 to be the most effective and popular opposition movement in Egypt. It has built up support among ordinary people through charitable works and has made significant inroads into the country's middle-class structures of education, the professional associations, the media, and the judiciary.

The government previously tried to outflank the fundamentalists by co-opting the conservative religious establishment, particularly through the Grand Sheikh of al-Azhar, the 1,000-year-old prestigious Islamic university which pours out edicts on which books should be read, what films seen, and why girls should be circumcised.

Egyptian secularists argue that instead of beating the brotherhood at its own game, this served only to widen the constituency for Islamic revivalism. They point to a recent court case in which a university lecturer, Mr Nasr Abu-Zayd, was declared an apostate for his writings on Islam as an example of how the fundamentalists have penetrated the secular structures of state.

Some diplomats believe that after the success of repressive measures against insurgents from the al-Jama'ah, which have been contained to a few small areas of Upper Egypt, the government is convinced that an iron hand is the only way to deal with fundamentalists.

To justify the new measures, officials have increasingly begun referring to the Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation linked to the al-Jama'ah and the Islamist/military regime in Sudan, which is accused by the Egyptian's of training the would-be assassins in the attack on President Mubarak.

Even among those intelligentsia who are resolutely against the Islamists, there is widespread concern that overt repression of the Brotherhood could re-vitalise violent groups such as the Gama'a.

Mr Sa'id 'Ashmawi, Egypt's former chief justice, who has been targeted by the Islamist movement, argues that the only way to counteract the Brotherhood is to "strengthen existing institutions and work harder in the social areas where the Brotherhood are making gains."

Mr Sa'id al-Najjar, who heads the think-tank New Civic Forum, says that the postponement of democracy is the government's worst mistake. "Only when we encourage wider political participation at all levels can we play the Brothers at their own game," he says. Until then, he argues, no matter how many arrests the government makes, the Brotherhood will continue to eat away at the fabric of Egyptian society.

Mubarak Phones King Fahd on Outcome of Visits

NC0908114595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning telephoned Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. President Mubarak and King Fahd exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arab and Islamic worlds and on the outcome of the visits of the United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to Cairo yesterday.

Iranian Envoy Discusses Attack on Mubarak, Bosnia

NC0908141895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 9 Aug (MENA)—Iranian Minister of Culture and Religious Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim has once again denounced the nefarious 26 June assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. He said that his country was among the first states to openly denounce the attempt immediately after it happened.

Mirsalim denied that his country is involved in any act of terrorism, harboring terrorists, or providing them with assistance. He pointed out in this regard that his country is among the states that suffer from terrorism.

The Iranian minister of culture made these remarks today during a news conference he held in Alexandria

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on the sidelines of the Conference on Religions in the Service of Mankind. He said that the elements that commit terrorist crimes in Iran and elsewhere in the Islamic world want to pin the charge of terrorism on Iran without providing any evidence.

Touching upon relations between Iran and the Arab states, Minister Mirsalim said that his country is willing to promote cooperation with the various Arab countries, above all Egypt and the Gulf states. He remarked that Iran's relations with Syria are good and warm and that they will not change as a result of peace being established between Syria and Israel.

The Iranian minister reiterated his country's condemnation of Israel's policy, its occupation of Arab lands, and its attempts to Judaize Jerusalem. He described as groundless reports about economic cooperation between Iran and Israel, pointing out that Israel views Iran as a threat in the region.

Mirsalim said that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait revealed its aggressive intentions for all its neighbors.

The Iranian culture minister expressed Iran's readiness to send volunteers to Bosnia to fight the Serbs, provided that an official call to that effect is issued by the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

In another development, the Iranian minister reiterated his country's insistence on viewing Salman Rushdi as a renegade, pointing out that Imam Khomeyni did not issue a fatwa on his execution, but had merely given a clear Islamic ruling that includes the punishment of death for renegades.

Mirsalim said that his country is careful to take part in the women's conference in Beijing in order to clarify the Islamic viewpoint on the issues under discussion. He pointed out that this position is similar to the one Iran took at the UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo last September.

Morocco

King Receives Message From Iranian President

LD0708145795 Rabat MAP in English 1350 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Aug. 5 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco received a verbal message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The message was conveyed to the sovereign by advisor-director at the Middle East and Africa department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Mohamed Khadem. The audience was held in the presence of charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Rabat.

King Hassan II had addressed last Sunday a similar message to the Iranian president. The message, conveyed by Moroccan Minister of Commerce and Industry Driss Jattou, dealt with political and economic bilateral relations and with issues of common interest, especially those concerning the Islamic nation.

Sudan

Nomination of New Egyptian Ambassador Approved

NC1008091695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 10 Aug (MENA)—Informed Sudanese sources have noted that the Sudanese Government has approved the nomination of Hilmi 'Abd-al-Hamid Salih Budayr as Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum.

In statements to the MENA correspondent, the sources added that Mr. Hilmi Salih Budayr will succeed Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haqq who finished his term in Sudan. Dr. Jad-al-Haqq is expected to leave Khartoum this month.

Taha Critical of International Action on Bosnia

EA0908190595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has said that what is going on in Bosnia now is a tragedy that racks the human conscience. He said it exposes the failure of the international community to play an effective role in stopping the negative aspects of this crisis.

This came in a statement which his excellency made today about the latest developments in the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

The foreign minister expressed Sudan's appreciation of the efforts of the European Contact Group and the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which are both dealing with the Bosnian issue. He pointed out that Sudan welcomes the results of the recent international contact group meeting in London.

He clarified that Sudan does not object to the continued presence of the international protection force in Bosnia for humanitarian purposes, but at the same time Sudan demanded a more effective role for the United Nations and the international community to end the tragedy and the inhuman suffering to which the people of Bosnia are being subjected.

The foreign minister said that Sudan viewed the embargo on the export of arms to the Bosnians and the

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continued flow of arms to the Serbs as a clear imbalance and injustice. He said that the correction of this imbalance, in Sudan's view, was the true criterion and test of the credibility of the United Nations and the international community in the effort to rescue the Bosnians from the atrocities they are subjected to by the aggressor Serb forces.

Officials Discuss Decree on Entry Visas

EA1008105695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Major General Hasan Ahmad Siddiq, director general of the police forces, has explained that the recent statement issued by the Interior Ministry on foreigners obtaining entry visas in advance exempts subjects of states linked to Sudan by bilateral agreements, and subjects of states that approve the convention of reciprocity.

At the Foreign Ministry's regular forum held today, his excellency pointed out that the decree issued in 1990 allows Arabs to enter Sudan without visas with the aim of dealing with and meeting Arab brothers, opening doors to investors and scholars, and promoting cooperation between peoples of the Arab nation in all fields, in addition to achieving cultural exchange, and fusion of the sons of the single Arab nation. His excellency said this decree has achieved major positive results represented by the attraction of investment and know-how which has contributed to developmental and economic activities.

His excellency broached the negative aspects that accompanied this decree. He explained that the decree had to be reconsidered with the aim of preserving the positive aspects that have been achieved, and laying down regulations to correct the remarks made by some states on the entry of their subjects into Sudan, as well as eliminating the negative aspects of criminal and health issues, and the status of undesirable elements.

His excellency said Egypt applies the visa and regulation system, therefore, it will be treated in a like manner — entry with a visa. He added that this decree will not infringe the relations of refugees in the country which are governed by international laws and known regulations.

Brigadier Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahim, director of the foreigners' department in the Interior Ministry, spoke at the forum and pointed out that residence is conditioned by several regulations. He explained that foreigners who were originally in the country are exempted from the visa requirements.

Mr. Awad al-Karim Fadlallah, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, explained that the Foreign Ministry has notified all the embassies of the application of this decree since yesterday, and its implementation.

'Leading Member' of Military Opposition To Return

MM1008111895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Information About Return of Leading Figure in Military Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Khartoum, AL-HAYAH — Informed Sudanese sources said yesterday that they expect a leading member of the military wing of the Sudanese opposition to return to Sudan after announcing withdrawal from the opposition "Democratic National Grouping" in protest against its decision to support the southern rebels' self-determination demand.

The sources said that Major General al-Hadi Bushra, Sudanese director general of security under the past democratic regime, has decided to return to Sudan in protest against the position taken by the Sudanese opposition, which, in his view, would lead to the creation of two states in Sudan.

Bushra occupied the third most important position in the "Sudanese Army's Legitimate Command" organization, which meant that he was well-informed on the military affairs of the opposition. At the outset of the democratic reign, Bushra was given the task of purging the national security organ which controlled the country under former President Ja'far Numayri's reign. After the recent Sudanese opposition conference in Asmara, Bushra issued a statement fiercely attacking the opposition leadership, accusing it of selling out Sudan's unity in return for seats of power.

The sources declined to give a date for Bushra's return to Sudan but stressed that it will be "very soon." AL-HAYAH has learned that some Sudanese officials have contacted Bushra on the grounds that his new position is in line with Khartoum's position on the issue of the south. Sources close to Bushra contacted by AL-HAYAH in London, however, said it is unlikely that he will return to Khartoum and counseled patience.

Tunisia

Suspected Member of Ennahdha Movement Pardoned

LD0708145295 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Tunisia, Kamel Masmoudi, accused of belonging to the fundamentalist movement

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al-Nahdah, was pardoned on 28 July on the occasion of the republic's national day. He was serving a five year prison sentence. This 28 year-old computer scientist has for seven years enjoyed double nationality, Tunisian and Canadian. It was while on a business trip in Tunisia that he was arrested on 4 March last. He was accused of meeting Rachid Ghannouchi, the leader of the Tunisian Islamist party, in the United States.

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Kuwait

Minister Interviewed on Relations With Jordan

JN0908162695 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 7

[Report on interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Yusuf 'Alawinah in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In front of his quiet office on the Gulf shore, where the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry lies, my footsteps were slowing down on my way to meet with him.

This was due to the fact that this meeting would be published in a Jordanian newspaper. I was aware that this meeting would be the first of its kind in five years despite my familiarity with the head of Kuwaiti diplomacy, or rather the dean of the world foreign ministers, and also despite the fact that I work in Kuwait for the newspaper AL-SIYASAH. I am also aware that some wounds have not healed yet and that the August quake [reference to the Gulf crisis] is still shaking many visions, states of affairs, and destinies.

Exactly as is known by all his acquaintances, he continued to have a wide smile, a soft voice, and a spirit of amity toward the one interviewing him or sitting with him.

During the interview, Shaykh Sabah was enthusiastic in his remarks. Shaykh Sabah maintained that he has rights and that he was stabbed in the back in the dark by a neighbor and a brother with whom the relationship was the best that can be achieved and that it was not disturbed by anything unusual, inappropriate, or imbalanced between brothers.

Shaykh Sabah said: Five years have passed, but the same question has not yet been dropped. In other words, why and under what pretext and for what reason was my country was stormed? Why was there an attempt to remove it from the map, obliterate the identity of its people, and subject them to various kinds of suffering and oppression?

He added: We in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf countries are exactly like you in Jordan and other Arab countries. Moreover, I say that we paid more than $40 billion and perhaps a similar sum in the form of services and facilities. Regarding politics, Saddam himself described me one day as the real foreign minister of Iraq. However, a few weeks later I was accused overnight of being America's first agent and the leader of aggression and conspiracy against Iraq! How could this make sense and how can anyone believe it?

Shaykh Sabah added: I am aware that I am addressing a public opinion that is hard to persuade and that some people are misinformed about Kuwait. However, we know that the majority of people have begun to read things carefully and discover the facts. Sir, we only did good deeds for Iraq and to all other Arabs. Our regional, Arab, and international policy was based on objectivity, independence, and absolute commitment to the Arab causes and concerns.

He continued: No one did for the Arabs something better than we did for them on the material, moral, media, and political levels. We did not conspire, nor did we pursue a double-faced policy. We used to work in broad daylight. We also showed solidarity with the brothers, appreciated all of them, and did not interfere in their internal affairs. We expressed respect and appreciation for them. Our country used to host Arab brothers whose number was twice the number of the Kuwaiti people. These brothers worked alongside us with full freedom and with a spirit of fraternity in a secure, stable, and generous country.

We did not avoid any Arab summit or any Arab effort, for the sake of Palestine or any other cause. We regularly received Arab leaders, who were accorded a gracious welcome, and we visited them in return. Through thick and thin, we extended support to them and shared their worries and pains.

We have fulfilled, and, God willing, will continue to fulfill our duty toward our brothers and friends, without reminding anyone of the favor or showing off with our donations. This is a duty of those who were awarded wealth by God toward the other parts of the same body. When I see how certain Arab states organize televised festivals for getting $1 million or one million German marks [in aid], I recall how we refused to mention or imply what we were giving, although it may be scores or hundreds of times that amount.

I woke up stunned to see the dilemma of the savage occupation of my country. I did not expect aggression or occupation from anyone. There is one aspect which needs to be mentioned here. In this office, I, together with an army of diplomats and politicians, devoted our efforts not only to promote Kuwait's reputation and the role which it deserves, but also for a host of Arab issues, for mediations and good offices to bridge gaps and extinguish conflicts here or there, and for a positive participation in everything that concerns Arab and Islamic affairs.

Iraq and Kuwait may have differences, exactly as Syria and Jordan, Egypt and Libya, Algeria and Morocco or any two states in the Arab homeland and the world may have difference. Regardless of that dispute, and regardless of who may be wrong, no one can

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imagine that the solution to the conflict can be achieved by erasing the brother and neighbor and ending its existence. What are we expected to do after that? Should we sit in the open, in the heat of the desert to sign our occupation and to endorse our annexation by the tanks and soldiers, who plundered even loafs of bread from women and young children.

I will retract everything I am saying now if any Arab people accept from their larger neighbor what our big neighbor, Iraq, did to us. If there is any reasonable person who wishes to see Arab unity achieved through tank shells, warplanes bombardment, the erasing of maps, expulsion and deportation, and the burning of oil wells and other sources of wealth, then blessed be such a unity!

We have not changed. Despite everything that happened to us, the principles remain unchanged. We know that we cannot change our skin, color, language, affiliation, or destiny.

You, and some of your colleagues, most of whom are from Jordan and Palestine — and I do not want to mention names — can testify that you heard the same answer to your questions in the past. My answer has always been that we support anything chosen by the people of the cause themselves. We support everything the Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese choose.

Shaykh Sabah added: I still say the same thing. We do not interfere in the affairs of anyone or dictate our will on anyone. Even under Iraqi occupation, his highness the amir, while addressing the United Nations, was eager to recall the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's right to their homeland.

Given the breakthrough achieved on various peace tracks and regarding relations with Israel, those who imagined that Saddam would throw the Jews in the sea were ahead of us in terms of making peace, recognizing Israel, and normalizing their relations with Israel. This was a contradiction. We, however, do not have any objection, and we wish the Arab states and their options all the best. We also hope the peace process will be completed by regaining Arab rights.

Dear, it sometimes seems as if I was asked to apologize to my executioner for my conduct toward him after I was subjected to his injustice and aggression! It is true that Iraq recognized the border demarcation as well as Kuwait, its sovereignty, and its independence. But let us ask this question: Did Iraq not decorate his highness with the al-Rafidayn medal a few weeks before the invasion of Kuwait? Did the Iraqi flag not flutter in the sky of Kuwait with which Iraq exchanged embassies?

A single word on retreat, repentance, and apology even to the Iraqi people has not yet been uttered in Baghdad. The issue is then one of premeditated intentions and of instigating the Iraqi people against their fraternal Kuwaiti people. Moreover, Iraq still detains more than 625 Kuwaiti and other prisoners whose only fault was that they were with their families and children or were buying bread and food from shops.

We are not talking about a delusion or fabricating a cause. You know some of these prisoners. Everyone knows that this number of detainees and missing persons is too large for such a small people as the Kuwaiti people. Perhaps, many people are aware of the documents in our possession which include arrest orders, minutes of interrogation inside jails, orders on transferring detainees between jails, and living testimonies. Where are these prisoners? Have they vanished?

Why does Iraq not cooperate on the issue of prisoners with the Red Cross and other international and charitable organizations? This issue is a source of concern for every Kuwaiti man and woman. Believe me that we will not rest assured until the prisoners return to their kinsfolk and homes and until their fate is known. Dear, I may have talked too much. May you pose questions.

I took a deep breath amid the emotions of this man who did not lose his calmness. Here is the remainder of the interview in the form of questions and answers:

['Alawinah] How do you view the overall Arab situation in light of the problems caused by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] The Arab situation is still suffering from the consequences of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait. The negative Arab situation, manifested in divisions and lack of mutual confidence, is the natural outcome of that crime. The stands taken by some Arabs at the Arab League meetings after occupation, whether on the level of foreign ministers or the summit, helped the aggressor and encouraged him to persist with his aggressiveness and arrogance.

It was regrettable that some Arabs continue to insist on their stands under flimsy pretexts. They cannot condemn the aggression or demand the Iraqi Government to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. We as an Arab nation are facing this state of division and deterioration.

['Alawinah] How do you conceive the way to overcome the problems, difficulties, and complications governing the stands of the Arab governments and peoples toward one another?

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[Al-Sabah] Confidence was lost after the failure of some Arab states to abide by the Security Council resolutions on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. It is regrettable that the entire world supported Kuwait and its people while some Arabs failed to do so under false pretexts.

['Alawinah] Do Jordanians and Palestinians still have a chance to work and reside in Kuwait like other Arabs?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait is a state of law. The Palestinian and Jordanian brothers enjoy full freedom here. Many of them left Kuwait during occupation either because they feared occupation or were against it. The Kuwaiti authorities did not expel any of them. They returned to their countries during occupation entirely of their own accord. Over 40,000 Jordanians and Palestinians are currently working in Kuwait side by side with their brothers.

['Alawinah] The crisis as well as cool relations between Kuwait and some Arab countries, which adopted different stands toward the crisis, are now over. When will this happen to relations with Jordan and Palestine?

[Al-Sabah] Frankly speaking, we want a clear call on Iraq to implement the Security Council resolutions on its aggression against Kuwait, most importantly the issue of prisoners of war, the return of Kuwaiti property, and compliance with the clauses of other resolutions. These are not conditions to overcome the current crisis. I think they are the minimum that can be done in compliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

['Alawinah] How do you view future security and stability in this vital part of the world in light of the current situation?

[Al-Sabah] The Gulf states have learned lessons from the ordeal, and they are now working to build Arab relations based on clear-cut positions and the results of the recent meeting the Damascus Declaration member states held in Manama. These results will be submitted to the Arab League as a document to regulate joint Arab action. Undoubtedly, this accomplishment will contribute to security and stability in the region and to cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states in light of collective security principles. Therefore, I am optimistic about future prospects.

['Alawinah] What is the latest news about Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq?

[Al-Sabah] This issue has humanitarian dimensions, and we cannot tolerate it. The Arab League did its best to solve the problem and His Majesty King Hassan II also played a great humanitarian role. To us, this issue has a special significance, and we will welcome any effort to help the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] deal with this humanitarian issue. As you know, the issue is being dealt with by a special committee formed by the allied countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the ICRC.

We will continue our efforts to get them released or to know their fate.

['Alawinah] Have you previously requested Jordan to help you get the prisoners released?

[Al-Sabah] As I have said, we will welcome any attempt to find a satisfactory solution to this humanitarian issue. So, we will welcome any help to return our prisoners.

['Alawinah] The Iraqi people are suffering from the blockade imposed on them since Iraq occupied Kuwait. How do you view this issue, and what is Kuwait's role toward it.

[Al-Sabah] We sympathize with the Iraqi people, and we know the difficulties they are facing. Kuwait has extended humanitarian aid to the Iraqi brothers living outside Iraq.

The Iraqi Government is responsible for this suffering because it has refused to sell a $1 billion worth of oil every three months to cover its needs, but the Iraqi Government rejected the resolution, as well as Resolutions 706 and 712. So, it is responsible for that suffering.

['Alawinah] Can we say that the Kuwaiti people have overcome the impact of occupation, and how do they view Arab issues?

[Al-Sabah] The Kuwaiti people have a realistic view on matters and they have learned much from the bitterness of the invasion. There is no doubt that they will overcome the results of the invasion by learning lessons from that experience.

['Alawinah] What is your stand on the current Middle East peace process and the progress attained on the various tracks?

[Al-Sabah] We have been in conflict with Israel since 1947. The peace process has begun on all tracks. The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] adopted resolutions supporting the march to attain a just and comprehensive peace. We support Syria's stand on the need for full withdrawal in exchange for peace. We support Lebanon's stand on the liberation of its south. We hope that progress is attained on this track so that peace prevails on all tracks.

['Alawinah] Will Kuwait fulfill its promises to support the Palestinian self-rule authority?

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[Al-Sabah] We continue with our financial support of the Palestinian Authority out of Kuwait's conviction that the Palestinian people need such an assistance. I would like to emphasize that we will continue to support the Palestinian people in spite of the PLO's stand which harms the Kuwaiti people.

['Alawinah] Are you optimistic of reaching a final solution to the Middle East problems and of solving the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Al-Sabah] The peace process is in motion and it is difficult to halt it. I believe that there is a general consensus to render it a success. It goes without saying that there are obstacles but everybody is aware that the present stage is different from the past. There is an inclination worldwide to settle problems through dialogue and negotiations, and I believe the region cannot avoid such a trend.

['Alawinah] What is your stand on Jerusalem?

[Al-Sabah] The question of Jerusalem is of interest to the Islamic world. It is the first of the two qiblahs and the third holiest mosque. We support any decision by the Islamic world and abide by all the resolutions adopted on Jerusalem.

['Alawinah] Let us go back to the situation in Iraq. How do you envisage Iraq's future, and are you ready to establish relations with President Saddam Husayn's government?

[Al-Sabah] There is no confidence in the Iraqi regime and it has to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions related to its aggression on Kuwait and release all the Kuwaiti prisoners.

As for the regime, this has to be decided by the Iraqi people who are the ones to decide what future they want.

['Alawinah] What are your feelings when addressing the Jordanian people?

[Al-Sabah] I hope that the Palestinian people will realize their aspiration of establishing their independent state, that Jordan will attain the progress, prosperity, and stability it seeks, and that peace prevails in the region which has been afflicted by many wars and destruction.

Saudi Arabia

King Works 'Day and Night' To Aid Bosnian Muslims

LD0908223895 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Aug 9, SPA — Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defence and Aviation and Inspector General Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz stated on Tuesday [8 August] that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia adopts the principle of closing Arab ranks and consolidating Arab solidarity.

In a statement to the press following a visit to the western fleet on Tuesday, the prince said the Kingdom has never done anything that goes against this principle.

Commenting on the custodian of the two holy mosques' fund-raising campaign for Bosnian people, he said the monarch exerts his utmost with major powers and the United Nations to put an end to the crisis of Bosnian Muslims.

He added that people only know of the food and medical supplies being sent to Bosnia and the efforts exerted with the major powers and the United Nations, but God only knows how King Fahd works day and night to help Bosnian Muslims.

Asked about research to upgrade weapons, the prince said the research is a secret part of the work and it really exists.

He also wished the new council of ministers success and good luck, and stressed that the Saudi-Yemeni committees are proceeding well, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding.

CDLR Bulletin Questions Legitimacy of Regime

MS0908125095 London CDLR Monitor in English 28 Jul 95

[Bulletin No. 58 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia (CDLR); issued on 23 December — received by Internet 8 August]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Your Right To Know — The Legitimacy of the Regime, Part 9 — The Second Ambiguity...

Some of the defenders of the legitimacy of Al Sa'ud's regime say that their claim of obedience to the leader is based on authentic evidence. Presentation of legitimate evidence is an honourable practice but the correct method of the Sunni scholars is to present all the evidence from Koran and Sunna which represents a particular case. This is then used collectively in order to reach a conclusion. It is also used in this way to avoid contradiction. A contradiction which would only occur due to lack of specialised knowledge in the rules of deduction from the legitimate evidence and Shariah.

Therefore, those who present evidence without resorting to the correct tools of deduction from Koran and Hadith can be classified into one of two types. They are either consciously misleading people and hiding the truth, or

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they are ignorant and are therefore unable to apply the correct procedures for reaching legitimate evidence or conclusions. No attention should be paid to such people nor their fatwas followed.

Imam al-Shatibi (RA) said, "The misunderstanding and wrong deduction is centrally based on the fact: — that is the ignorance of the aims of Shariah and a lack of understanding of the collective viewpoint. The method used by well-versed scholars is to view Shariah as a total image — in that, like the parts of the human body, each part supports the whole image or entity."

The Imam continued by saying that the people who follow ambiguous evidence are of the type that take one piece of evidence and produce a ruling, or fatwa from it, even when there is other evidence which must be compared and considered before a final ruling can be made. The act of taking one piece of evidence only was described by the Imam asakin to taking one organ from the total body. Remember the famous example of the four blind men and the elephant. This obviously does not present a correct image of the total picture. This is why, as described earlier, all verses and evidence must be collectively examined and analysed before a proper, legitimate rule of Shariah can be passed.

The Imam also explained that type of people who follow ambiguities are those that present the general verses before examining their detailed restrictions, or the opposite, generalising a restricted verse without any evidence to support it. This method was described by the Imam as following one's desire when analysing evidence.

With reference to previously mentioned case of exploring evidence in the case of obedience to the leader and the legitimate rules related to it, Allah (SWT) [Almighty] said in the Koran, "O ye who believe, obey God and obey the apostle, and those charged with authority among you." Immediately afterwards, Allah (SWT) says "if ye differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to God and his apostle, if ye do believe in God and the last day: that is best and most suitable for final determination."

With regard to the Hadiths related to the same case, they are of three types. The first group of Hadiths refer to the total obedience to leaders and necessity of patience when confronted with their injustices.

The second group of Hadiths relate that one must disobey leaders if they disobey Allah (SWT). These Hadiths also urge the Muslims to fight such oppressive leaders.

The third group of Hadiths contain the instruction to obey the leaders under certain conditions, related by such Hadiths.

In the first group of Hadiths, the Prophet (SAW) [peace be upon Him] said, "One who dislikes an action taken by his leader should be patient over it, for anyone from the people who withdraws his obedience from the leader, even to the extent of a handspan, and then died in that condition, would die the death of one belonging to the days of Jahiliya."

Another Hadith states that the Prophet (SAW) said, "There will be leaders after me who will not be following my guidance, nor my Sunna,. and there will be men in the shape of man, with evil hearts" The narrator said, "Oh Prophet of Allah, what should I do if I live in such times?" He said, "listens and obey, even if you were whipped on your back and your money is taken."

With reference to the second group of Hadiths, in one such Hadith the Prophet (SAW) said, "Every Prophet sent by Allah before me had disciples and compasion from his nation who followed his guidance and practiced his ways. Then they will be followed by successors who preach what they don't do themselves and do that which they are not instructed to do. The one who fights them with his hands is a believer, the one who fights them with his tongue is a believer, and the one who fights them with his heart is a believer. There is not, after that, the smallest particle of belief."

In another Hadith, the Prophet (SAW) said, "You will be led, after men, by men who desert the Sunna, and practice Bidar, and delays prayers." The Narrator asked the Prophet (SAW), "Oh Prophet of Allah, if I live to see those men, what should I do?" He said, "No obedience to the one who disobeys Allah."

It has also been confirmed that 'Abd-al-Ibn 'Umar prepared himself to fight the representative of Mu'awiya, who was sent to take his land in Ta'yf. Such action by a prominent companion and scholar was based on the Hadith of the Prophet (SAW) that says, "whoever was killed unjustly, defending his property, is a martyr." There is another Hadith that supports the same case. The Prophet (SAW) said, "There will be leaders after me who say what you accept, and do what you resent. These are not your leaders."

The third group of Hadiths combine the two previous groups together, urging obedience under certain conditions as described in the Hadiths.

In one Hadith, 'Ubadah Ibn-'Asamit (RA) said, "we pledged allegiance to the Prophet (SAW) in listening and obeying in times of difficulty, and in times of ease...

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and not to fight our leaers unless we see clear and evident practice of disbelief."

The Prophet (SAW) stated in another Hadith, "listen and obey, even if you were led by an Ethiopian slave, as long as he practices Shariah."

The Prophet (SAW) also said, "The best of your rulers are those whom you love and who love you, who invoke Allah's blessings upon you and you invoke His blessings upon them. And the worst of your leaders are those whom you hate and who hate you, and whom you curse and who curse you." It was asked by those present, "Shouldn't we overthrow them with the help of the sword?" He said, "No, as long as they establish prayer among you.'

The last group of Hadith very strongly stressed the obedience to leaders 3rovided the conditions mentioned are met. If we contemplate upon the method used by the defenders of the regime to establish the regime's legality we shall see that the following violations have been committed.

Firstly, we can examine the way in which these people have applied the ayat, "obey Allah and obey His Prophet and obey your leaders," whilst ignoring the contents of the verse that immediately follows that ayat, which presents the condition that in matters of dispute, Shariah should be the judge.

Secondly, use of the first group of Hadiths as evidence for obeying the leaders can never be possible in general terms, simply because it has been proved without a doubt by definite evidence in Shariah and with the unanimous agreement of Muslims, that there should be no obedience in actions which displease Allah.

Therefore, it is not permissible to use those Hadiths as evidence without considering the second group of Hadiths which explain the conditions which restrict the general verses in the first group of Hadiths.

Thirdly, the use of sections of a Hadith, such as the Hadith in the third group, where certain people have used specific sections of the Hadith which are convenient to them, whilst ignoring those parts which contain certain restrictions, means that the Hadith is not perceived in its entirety. For example, in one of the Hadiths in this third group, such people have abruptly halted at the sentence, "and we do not fight our leaders," whilst ignoring the remainder of the sentence, which continues, "unless we see clear and evident practice of disbelief."

We do possess legitimate evidence, because the exchange of Allah's Shariah by legislating other laws to replace it in various aspects of life, giving support and allegiance to Non-Muslims against Muslims, and the forbidding of the Halal and legalisation of the Harram, are all overwhelming evidence towards the blasphemy committed by the regime.

The last Hadith in the third group which relates to the Ethiopian slave makes the condition very clear in that the application of Shariah is an absolute necessity for legitimacy. In the other Hadith, where the Prophet (SAW) mentioned a condition by saying, "as long as they establish prayer amongst you" refers to the fact that the establishment of the whole Deen, as explained by other Hadiths. Even if we only take the apparent meaning of that Hadith, then performing the prayers alone does not give legitimacy to a regime that has exchanged Shariah with other man-made laws, and which has committed other actions which are forbidden. This is from the point of view of applying all evidence collectively.

On the other hand, from the view of considering the fundamental and legitimate aims of Shariah. It is totally illogical that it would call for the establishment of legitimate leadership and base that legitimacy on the establishment of Allah's law i.e. Shariah, and to then consider those who completely disable the fundamental basis of leadership to be legitimate leaders.

Finally, to those who differ with us as to the legitimacy of the regime and who continue to insist on their stand despite all the evidence presented, we advise them that if they consider their view to be based on legitimate study, then they should act in the proper Islamic manner and respect our point of view. They should take the action of Imam Ahmed Ibn Hanbal as an example, where he differed in his opinion with Shaykh Ahmed Ibn-Nasser al-Khuza'i, and who revolted against the leader with the sword not only with criticism. He did this even though the violations of the leader of that time with regard to Shariah were inconsequential when compared to the actions of al Sa'ud.

News

Arrests...

"Abd-al-Rahman Al-Suwaydan, a policeman, was arrested last week in Buraydah at his place of work. His house was also thoroughly searched.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibn-Muhammad al-Dukhayl, aged 60 years, and his son Mohammaed were arrested last Friday in a show of force by the security and intelligence personnel. Their house was surrounded by 40 police cars and was extensively searched whilst the two men were removed in chains.

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At the same time, Ibrahim Ibn-Muhammad Al 'Ujayli was arrested in a similar manner.

These arrests have caused a great deal of anger in the city, particularly because those detained come from influential families in the area.

Sacking and Transferring the Faithful...

After a comprehensive review by the Interior Ministry of the names of the intellectuals, university professors and lecturers who have been useful to the nation during the previous years, the Ministry has now adopted a plan in order to lessen their influence.

The Ministry intends to achieve this by the sacking and transfer of many important personalities. Amongst those sacked so far are Shaykh 'Abd-al-Wahhab Al Tirayi, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Al 'Ashmani and Dr. Nasser Al 'Umar, whilst amongst those transferred are Dr. 'Awad al Qurni and Dr. Sa'ud Al Fingaysan. This list is increasing and we will publish further news as soon as it is received.

Al Sa'ud and the New Revenues!!!

It has recently been decided to make charitable organisations one of the official sources of revenue for al Sa'ud. Salman's attempt to use charity donations under the so-called "paying the debts of the princes" project has been successful and has succeeded in breaking the psychological barrier against using charity donations for al Sa'ud's personal use.

The latest "aid" presented by Salman from the Al-Birr Organisation was 80 million riyal for one of his "poverty stricken" sons!!

Recently, Salman's hand has even extended to donations for Bosnia, and it is highly likely that his hand may have covered donations intended for Somalia and other places.

Good News...

Shaykh al-Ghamidi was released on the same day as his arrest, and it would appear that the intelligence department is satisfied with a prohibtion against him presenting lectures, lessons, or any other type of public appearance or activity.

Shayakh and dr. Muhmmad Sa'id Al-Khatani was also released a few days ago.

Al-Luhaydan — False Claims...

Al-Ilydan has claimed that Shaykh Hamud Al 'Aqlah has apologised and has withdrawn his fatwa in permitting "sit-in" protests. However, Ahaykh Al; 'Allah vehemently denied such claims. On the other hand, Shaykh al-Haydan appears to be a haunted these days by the feeling of the people's hatred towards him, and their love and respect for the two detained Shaykhs, Safar and Salman. Al-Haydfan has become the talk of the people due to his stand beside the oppressors.

We would like to remind al-Haydan of the call of the Prophet (SAW) to scholars, "You are the witnesses of Allah on earth."

Television Propaganda...

The Committee has received many letters and messages requesting us to comment on the new propaganda program, "With The People." With regard to this programme, which is presented by a well known "deceitful" hypocrite, our comment is that the programme is purely propaganda in a feeble attempt to enhance the image of Al Sa'ud. The interviews presented on the program are clearly well rehearsed, with specific, previously known, questions and answers.

We would like to take this opportunity to mention to al Sa'ud that the people have long since passed the stage of believing such pathetic propaganda!!

Security...

The Committee is still receiving news of the security decline and of the rapid increase in the crime rate. Some of the trends, which until recently would have been considered to be impossible, have now become a reality. In Medina, for example, a gang of criminals assaulted a house and kidnapped the lady occupier. The husband returned and contacted the "brave" security forces, who have so far failed to find any trace of the kidnapped woman.

Al-Bahah Complain About "The Sheep"!!!...

The Committee has received a collective complaint from the people of Al-Bahah region, expressing their total and absolute resentment regarding the horrifying decline in the health services of the area. Mentioned in the complaint was that "the sheep," as the people refer to their governor prince, is the one of the people hold responsible for the general decline of the region.

The complaint also referred to their anger towards the manager of the hospital administration. Apparently the Health Ministry had taken a decision to remove the manager, but the prince took a very firm stand in the manager's support, with the result that he kept his position. This indicates al Sa'ud's method of appointing and assigning only these people who encourage the firm establishment of corruption and injustice.

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The President of the High Council of Islamic Affairs i.e. Chief Thief!!

The Committee has recently obtained a secret document, dated 1/1/1416H, which was sent by Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz to the general manager of the water and waste disposal corporation for the Mecca area. The document instructed the manager to approve the evacuation of land belonging to the 'Aayn Zubaydah administration area of mecca, with the documents for the land to be drawn in Sultan's name.

The area involved covers 163.103 square metres. The prince instructed the urgency of the action, with an exceptionally symbolic price and a request for personal attention from the manager. The letter was signed by Sultan himself, and a copy of the original is attached to the bulletin.

A Call for Qunoot...

After the clear hypocritical, international stand with regard to the Bosnian Muslims, and due to the feeble and pathetic stand of the so-called Muslim regimes, we are therefore calling upon our brothers everywhere to increase their Du'ah and the qunoot in the mosques. We advise the brothers to ignore the authorities decision to prohibit quonnot in mosques.

An Important Declaration...

We would like to confirm to our Brothers who receive the bulletin from outside the Kingdom that they can receive the bulletin by the "Polling" method. This is by contacting 00441132938383 and then pressing the green button upon hearing the tone. For the contacts inside the UK the number 0891 616519 should be used. The Committee will soon cease transmission to outside the Kingdom, therefor ewe advise, the use of the Polling method only.

Yemen

Cabinet Criticizes Israeli Court Decision on Mosque

JN1008084695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a regular meeting under the chairmanship of brother Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Aziz 'Abd-Al-Ghani this morning. It studied the call for an urgent meeting of the foreign ministers of Islamic states to discuss the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina, whose people are being annihilated by the Serb aggressors—a call made by brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, at the inauguration of the week of solidarity with the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council of Ministers said holding this meeting in light of the recent developments in Bosnia is now more important than ever before.

Reviewing the latest developments in the Arab arena, the cabinet condemned and denounced the Israeli Supreme Court ruling allowing the so-called Temple Mount Faithful to enter the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. The cabinet said this ruling is a serious precedent and a blatant violation of Security Council Resolutions 252 and 604. The cabinet stressed the importance of exerting all efforts to restore Arab and Islamic solidarity, which will enable the Arab nation to face all challenges, preserve its rights, and put an end to such practices. [passage omitted]

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Two Sons-in-Law, Daughters of Saddam Defect to Jordan

Hasan Relieved of Post

JN1008065795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0652 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA) — Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and director of the Military Industrialization Organization, has been relieved of his post. This came in a republican decree issued yesterday and announced here today.

Jordan Grants Political Asylum

NC1008072695 Paris AFP in English
0717 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 10 (AFP)— Jordan on Thursday [10 August] granted political asylum to Iraq's former minister of industry and minerals and members of his family, a Jordanian official said.

Husayn Kamil Hasan has been sacked from his post as minister and head of Iraq's military industrialisation organisation, the official Iraqi news agency INA reported earlier from Baghdad.

Hasan Makes Post-Defection Statement

NC1008090095 Paris AFP in English
0838 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 10 (AFP)— Iraq's sacked industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan said Thursday [10 August] that President Saddam Husayn's government had lost all credibility.

Hasan, who is Saddam's son-in-law, fled Tuesday with his wife and members of his family to Jordan where they were granted political asylum.

In his first comments since his flight, Hasan told AFP that Saddam's rule had "lost its credibility on the international and Arab level, not giving the exact picture of the situation in the country, which has caused even more misery to the Iraqi people."

Hasan was sacked as minister of industry and mineral resources, as well as head of Iraq's powerful military industrialization organization, on Wednesday.

He and his brother General Saddam Kamil, a senior officer in Iraq's crack Republican Guard, had already left Iraq with their wives, both daughters of Saddam.

Hasan said their defection "shows to what extent the situation in Iraq has deteriorated."

He said he had "begun contacts with a number of Iraqi figures inside and outside Iraq to work to put an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, by drawing up a plan of action which will lead to a change in the situation in the country."

Hasan did not rule out that he and his relatives would "set off again for friendly Arab countries," without elaborating.

'Family Differences' Cited

JN1008085395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0830 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Saddam Husayn has deposed his son-in-law, Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, who was granted political asylum in Jordan.

Amman said it granted political asylum to Husayn Kamil Hasan and his family following their arrival in Jordan on Tuesday. His brother, Saddam Kamil Hasan, an officer in the Republican Guards, and his cousin 'Izz-al-Din Muhammad Hasan, along with their families, also arrived with him.

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said the two daughters of the Iraqi president also arrived in Jordan in the company of their husbands, Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan, noting the presence of family differences.

Hasan Vows To Help End Suffering

NC1008131095 Paris AFP in English
1210 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Aug 10 (AFP)— Two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn were granted asylum in Jordan on Thursday [10 August] with their husbands, one of them Saddam's industry minister and a key figure in the country's advanced weapons program.

Husayn Kamil Hasan, who was sacked as industry minister on Wednesday, vowed to work to end the Iraqi people's suffering and said Saddam's government had lost all credibility. [passage omitted]

Husayn Kamil Hasan said he had "begun contacts with a number of Iraqi figures inside and outside Iraq to work to put and end to the suffering of the Iraqi people, by drawing up a plan of action which will lead to a change in the situation in the country." [passage omitted]

Relatives of Hasan told AFP: "'Udayy, Saddam's eldest son, is closer to the Iraqi president because of family ties, but General Husayn Kamil Hasan was the number two in the state set-up."

Saddam's family has been the backbone of his support. He moved relatives into key civilian and military posts

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after he came to power in 1968 and stepped up this policy in the January-February 1991 Gulf War.

However, reports have indicated dissension within Saddam's family, notably because of the growing power of 'Udayy.

"Several members of the ruling family have condemned the attitudes and unlimited inluence of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn," an Iraqi expert told AFP.

Iraqi opposition groups said Thursday Saddam had been seriously weakened by the defection. "All that remains are Saddam and his two sons," 'Udayy and Qusayy, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan told AFP. [passage omitted]

Opposition Invites Hasan To Join

NC1008112195 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 10 (AFP)—The Iraqi opposition on Thursday [10 August] invited President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law General Husayn Kamil Hasan to join the movement.

"If General Hasan shows good faith and that he has really left the regime, he is welcome in the Iraqi National Congress [INC]," a spokesman for the umbrella organization, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jabbar, told AFP when contacted in London.

He said Kamil was among 14 senior Iraqi officials whom the INC wanted to try for war crimes, but his defection might change their position.

Jordan said Thursday it had granted asylum to Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil as well as their wives, who are two of Saddam Husayn's three daughters.

At around the same time the Iraqi news agency said Hasan had been fired from his post of minister of industry and minerals.

A member of the opposition Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Latif Rashid, also said from London that after the defections "all that remain are Saddam and his two sons."

"The structure is crumbling. Saddam is seriously weakened," the official said.

Saddam has dropped most of his relatives from the government and the army in the last six months, he said.

Opposition Radio Claims Saddam's Half-Brother Shot

NC0908155395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shots were fired at Saddam Husayn's half brother Wathban Ibrahim al-Hasan yesterday, wounding him in the leg. It should be recalled that Wathban is an adviser to the president and was interior minister before being relieved. The newspaper BABIL today published a ingenuous report on the incident. It said that Wathban was injured at a private party held yesterday to mark the anniversary of the end of the eight-year war that Saddam Husayn launched against Iran. The paper reported that Wathban was wounded when a man who was firing into the air in celebration lost his balance and hit Wathban and another person standing behind him. The paper said that both were taken to hospital.

A source close to the regime, who insisted on anonymity, told our radio that BABIL's story is not true. The paper, he said, made up the report to show that the incident was accidental even though the shots were deliberately fired at Wathban and one of his guards who was standing behind him. The source said that the people in Baghdad believe that 'Udayy is behind the attempt as part of an effort to liquidate individuals in Saddam's clan who reject 'Udayy's authority. He said that the incident has brought the conflict among the ruling clan's members to the surface, adding physical liquidation as a dimension of the struggle.

Commenting on the incident, the source said that blood feud has begun among Saddam's family and that the vendetta will soon spread among them.

Presidential Office Pardons Egyptian Prisoners

JN1008083495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0817 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 10 Aug (INA)—Iraq has pardoned Egyptians convicted of various crimes from serving the rest of their prison terms and decided to release them immediately.

A decision issued by the Presidential Office today, pardoned Egyptian inmates and those detained on remand for crimes of assault; bribery; withholding information from the authority; insulting the leaders of the nation, people, and homeland; and other crimes cited in the aliens residence law.

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Jalalist Forces Sustain 'Heavy Casualties,' Repulsed

JN0908212795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regardless of international mediations and peace attempts, the Jalalists have continued their attacks and their military concentrations. On 8 and 9 August, the jalalists launched an offensive against the defensive positions of our heroic peshmerga in (Rabiyat al-Mu'aradah) and (Qatchi Bukuzawah) in (?Jabal Husayn) but our heroic peshmerga confronted them, quickly repulsed them, and forced them to flee disappointed toward their positions after they sustained heavy casualties. The offensive did not cause any losses among our heroic peshmerga.

Barzani 'Not Optimistic' on Inter-Kurd Talks

MM0908173495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Aug 95 p 3

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, by 'Adnan Husayn in Salah al-Din, Iraqi Kurdistan; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Husayn] What is Barzani's view of the effects of the infighting on the Kurdish issue?

[Barzani] The damage is very substantial at all levels, domestic, regional, and international. It is causing us to lose our credibility and the sympathy of many states and friends. We feel the effects of this disaster.

[Husayn] If you are aware of its adverse effects, why is it continuing?

[Barzani] I stress to you that our position in it has been defensive since the beginning. We did not start it, nor did we want it to continue. Those who started it and are imposing it on us should be requested to halt the aggression. We will remain compelled to defend ourselves as long as this aggression is continuing.

[Husayn] The other party [the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan — PUK] says that you started the infighting and are continuing it. And that the reason is the fact that the leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] wants to reach an agreement with the Iraqi Government by any means — something to which the PUK is opposed.

[Barzani] That is absolutely untrue. The PUK cannot prevent us from reaching an agreement with the Iraqi Government if we want to. If we believe that it is in the interests of the Iraqi people and the Kurdish people to reach an agreement with the Iraqi Government, we will do so openly, taking no notice of anyone. We engaged in negotiations with the government (in 1991) in response to a decision from the Kurdistan Front (an alliance of the Kurdish parties). The negotiations were also suspended by a decision from the Kurdistan Front when it discovered that it was not possible to reach an honorable agreement. I stress that the cause of the outbreak of infighting was the elections (to the Kurdish parliament, which were supposed to be held last year or this year). The PUK wanted to create a situation in which the elections could not be held. They knew they would lose the elections, so they decided to preempt events and thwart the process by sparking off the fighting. That is what happened.

[Husayn] Can you provide more details?

[Barzani] As I said, the cause of the fighting is that the PUK ignited the sedition in order for the elections not to be held. It is a military organization seeking to impose itself by force. It cannot tolerate losing the elections. And it does not believe in democracy. They were certain they would lose, so they resorted to fighting. The continuation of the fighting is attributable to that organization's insistence on imposing itself by force and ruling Kurdistan illegally and by dictatorial means. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] From my meetings with Jalal Talabani and a number of his aides, it seems that they believe that there is a "conspiracy" being hatched by the KDP, the Iraqi and Turkish Governments, and maybe the Iranian Government as well, to destroy or curb the PUK, saying that the KDP appeals more to these governments and is more willing to bargain with them.

[Barzani] The KDP has never resorted to lies in its relations with the Turks, the Iranians, or Iraq, unlike the PUK, which made numerous promises to these states but fulfilled only part of them. It has never happened that the KDP made any promises and did not fulfill them. It either makes promises and fulfills them or makes no promises at all. This is what prompts everyone to respect the KDP more than the PUK. This is one point. The other point is that the PUK is not a giant, that it would require an alliance of all these parties to destroy or curb it. In fact the PUK cooperates with these parties more than us. It established relations with all of them long before us. We maintain relations of good-neighborliness with Turkey and Iran. These relations are based on common interests and mutual respect. What I would like to stress is that in our relations we do not abandon our interests for the sake of this or that state. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] The United States is currently endeavoring to sponsor talks between you [the KDP and the PUK] in the hope of securing an agreement that would end your conflict. Is there any hope of reaching such a result?

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[Barzani] I am not optimistic, but I hope so.

[Husayn] Why are you pessimistic?

[Barzani] An agreement in itself means nothing. The important thing is its implementation. We have in the past reached several agreements with them, but they always violated them.

[Husayn] Will you join the talks?

[Barzani] Yes.

[Husayn] What about conditions?

[Barzani] We have set no conditions. As there is a guarantor of the agreement we are going to reach, we are assured that it will be implemented or at least there will be a witness to confirm who is violating it.

[Husayn] Did you not make it conditional that the party that violated the recent truce be named?

[Barzani] I think they know, and if they do not, they can ask. Everyone here knows. Some people have openly said that it was the PUK which violated the truce.

[Husayn] Is it true that you are refusing to meet with Talabani to sign the anticipated agreement?

[Barzani] That is untrue. All that we said is that the process cannot begin with such a meeting, but, rather, with meetings between two delegations from the political bureaus of the two parties in order to draft an agreement.

[Husayn] Do you still set the evacuation of PUK gunmen from Irbil as a condition for any agreement?

[Barzani] Yes. That must be the first clause of any agreement. Without that, there will be no agreement.

[Husayn] Why?

[Barzani] First, because Irbil is the provincial capital and the home of legitimacy (the local parliament) and the government. The activities of the parliament and the government are hampered because of the PUK gunmen's control of the city. The capital in particular must not be under the control of anyone. Second, Irbil was seized as a result of a treacherous military coup, and we do not accept any action of that kind. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] You said earlier that, if you find that it is in the interests of the Kurdish people to sign an agreement with the Iraqi Government, no one can prevent you from doing so. Under what circumstances would you negotiate and sign an agreement with Baghdad?

[Barzani] When we are convinced that that is in the interests of the Iraqi people and the Kurdish people.

[Husayn] What new element would prompt you to resume negotiations with the Iraqi Government?

[Barzani] What I would like to stress is that we will never, nor can we, become a pressure card or a conspiratorial element against Iraq, no matter who is ruling it. We cannot be soldiers taking orders from anyone. As far as we are concerned, the fundamental thing is for the rights of the Kurdish people to be safeguarded and their political position known beforehand.

[Husayn] It seems that the Iraqi Government tried to resume dialogue with you recently. But you refused to receive Dr. Makram Talabani (a former Kurdish minister in the Iraqi Government who has made several endeavors to resume the dialogue over past years), who was entrusted with that task.

[Barzani] Actually I was not in Salah al-Din when Dr. Talabani went there. I was busy with other matters. Nevertheless, I do not believe that the man was bringing anything new, nor do I think he is the right person for such a task.

Welcomes U.S. Mediation

NC0908141995 Paris AFP in English
1328 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 9 (AFP) — An Iraqi Kurdish leader on Wednesday welcomed U.S.- sponsored talks in Ireland aimed at ending the conflict in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

"We are confident as long as there is a third party to guarantee the implementation of any accord we might reach," Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, told the Saudi newspaper AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

The KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the main rivals in northern Iraq, were to begin meeting in Dublin on Wednesday [9 August] to try [to] end the year-long conflict over power-sharing and tax revenues which has left more than 2,000 dead on both sides.

Barzani said his group placed "no condition" for participating in the meeting.

"I have hope but I am not optimistic because reaching an accord is not an end in itself if it cannot be applied," the Kurdish leader said.

But he added that the United States "will be a witness if the accord is violated."

The meeting between the two rivals would be the first in eight months. A Turkish observer will also attend.

The KDP and the PUK will try to revive the joint administration they formed in 1992 in northern Iraq,

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a year after they won control over the region from President Saddam Husayn's troops in the wake of Baghdad's defeat in the Gulf war.

They were helped by an air exclusion zone set up and enforced by the United States, Britain and France.

PUK's Talabani Discusses U.S. Mediation Efforts

NC0908164695 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], yesterday received al-Salam Bayiz, the official in charge of the third branch of the PUK organizations in Irbil. Their talks dealt with the prevailing situation in Irbil with regard to living conditions and organizational and security matters.

The PUK official stressed that things are quiet in Irbil and security is extremely good. Brother Talabani said that it behooves the PUK forces and organizations to continue serving the Kurdish masses within the limits of law and order, particularly at this delicate time when the United States is undertaking a difficult mediation to establish peace in Kurdistan.

Minister Charges U.S. Pressuring Kurdish Groups

JN0908213495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—Iraq has urged the U.S. Administration to stop tampering with the Kurds' destiny, particularly since its efforts to use them as a political card against Iraq over the past five years have been met with abysmal failure.

In a comment to the Iraqi News Agency on the news of a meeting between Iraqi Kurdish groups in the Irish capital of Dublin under the auspices of the United States, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi accused the U.S. Administration of applying various kinds of pressure on these groups to prevent them from holding a dialogue with their legitimate government.

Hammadi added that the U.S. Administration's motive behind holding this meeting is not to settle inter-Kurdish disputes, but to save its face, because the so-called safe haven for Kurds in northern Iraq has turned into killing grounds for Kurds, where Iraqi Kurds are fighting each other, where Turkey kills refugees, and where Iranian mullahs, along with their weapons and funds, infiltrate to take part in the killing of Iraqi Kurds.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi went on to say: Stability and security will not return to northern Iraq unless the legitimate Iraqi authority is reestablished there, and unless the U.S. Administration and its allies withdraw from the region. The U.S. Administration has placed itself in an impasse from which it cannot get out unless it stops tampering with the Kurds' destiny, particularly since the U.S. Administration's efforts to use them as a political card against Iraq over the past five years have been met with abysmal failure.

The minister of culture and information said: Kurdish groups seek a resumption of dialogue with the Baghdad leadership. However, the U.S. Administration is applying all kinds of pressure to prevent them from holding a dialogue with their legitimate leadership. The U.S. Administration has remained adamant and refused to acknowledge failure. Nonetheless, it will have to do so sooner or later.

Saddam Receives Congratulatory Cable From Jordanian King

JN0908115895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from His Majesty Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

The following is the text:

His Excellency brother Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, president of the Republic of Iraq and Revolution Command Council chairman:

Peace and blessings of God be upon you,

On this occasion, it pleases me to take the opportunity of our Muslim nation's celebrations of Prophet Muhammad's birthday to send to my dear brother, in my own name and on behalf of the people and government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, my sincerest hearty congratulations and best brotherly wishes. I beseech God Almighty to grant your excellency good health and happiness; your fraternal people further progress, loftiness, and prosperity; and our Arab-Muslim nation fortune, well-being, and blessings with its word united on the path of prosperity and success. Many happy returns.

Foreign Minister Protests U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

JN1008081495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 10 Aug (INA) — Iraq has strongly condemned the U.S. spy plane U-2's violation of its airspace under the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the UN Special Commission, taking off from its base in Saudi Arabia.

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In a protest letter sent today to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that in July this spy plane carried out four new violations of Iraq's airspace during which it overflew large areas. The plane flew for a total of 17 hours and 27 minutes.

In his letter, which included a detailed list of these violations, the foreign minister reiterated Iraq's firm position that this plane is being used for purposes other than those specified by the Security Council and that its activity harms Iraq's sovereignty and security. The foreign minister stressed the need for using Iraqi means for the activities of the Special Commission instead of foreign means, since the use of these foreign means violates Iraq's airspace and security.

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Iran 'Trying To Recruit' Assassins To Kill Rabin

TA0908173995 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel over clip of film "In the Line of Fire"—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is Iran trying to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin? Israeli security officials have recently learned that Iran has been trying to recruit people to assassinate the prime minister. It has also been learned that Iran has been trying to collect information about the nuclear reactor in Dimona. Our Army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

[Daniyel] Israeli security officials have recently learned that Iran has been trying in various ways to recruit people for an operation to assassinate Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. General information about plans to assassinate various people had been received in the past, hence the very tight security not just in Israel but everywhere in the world, as may be seen in this film about the U.S. President.

This time we are talking about a concrete report to the effect that the Iranian terrorist apparatus initiated and tried to carry out such a deed. This is all we are allowed to publish on this affair at the moment.

Furthermore, those same Iranian terror and intelligence sources have been recently trying to collect information about the nuclear reactor in Dimona. The method they use is to recruit people and infiltrate them as innocent workers in the nuclear reactor — all this, in order to collect the most updated information possible.

Obviously the prime minister has been briefed about these developments. He himself has more than once described Iran as a dangerous enemy to Israel. Now we learn that the Iranian terror apparatus is prepared to go very far, since even in this demented Middle East the assassination of heads of state would overstep the rules of the game.

Peres, MK Member View 'Arafat Remarks on Jihad

TA1008075295

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 10 August carries a two-minute recorded report by Washington correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir about speeches made by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza and broadcast on Palestinian television approximately two months ago. The speeches were compiled into a video cassette which was distributed to U.S. senators yesterday by Morton Klein, chairman of the Zionist Organization of America and an opponent to the political process.

The correspondent, citing as an example a speech made by 'Arafat on 19 June 1995, quotes 'Arafat as saying: "A commitment is a commitment, an oath is an oath. We will go on with the jihad, a long jihad, a difficult jihad, an exhausting jihad, martyrs, battles. But this is the path of victory, the path of glory, the path of jihad, not just for the Palestinian people but for the entire Arab nation."

Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 9 August carries a three-minute talk in the studio between political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen and anchorman Ya'aqov Eylon. Asked whether the issue of the cassette had been raised in the talks between Peres and 'Arafat in Taba, Rosen replies: "Peres previously said that in his opinion the cassette was a forgery. When he raised the issue with 'Arafat in Taba yesterday, however, the latter replied: The cassette is not a forgery. I really said those words; I admit it. The only thing is that you do not quite understand what I was talking about. 'Arafat even promised to send an envoy to the United States to explain what he meant. It will be interesting to see how 'Arafat explains his remarks in praise of the female terrorist who is responsible, among other things, for the bus hijacking on the coastal road in 1978."

Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 9 August carries a three-minute live interview in the studio with Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin by anchorman Hayim Yavin. When asked whether there is a "conspiracy of silence in the media" about the cassette, Begin says: "Two days ago, Minister Peres oddly speculated that the cassette could even be a forgery. The videotape contains terrible and grave things. This is the partner into whose hands the Israeli Government is about to relinquish more parts of Eretz Yisra'el."

Asked how this call for jihad differs from dozens of other speeches made by 'Arafat, Begin replies: "If it is no different, then look at the situation as it is. Do you remember that a year ago, experts babbled the explanation that the call for jihad was a call for a cultural, social, and innocuous jihad? The man — if he is a man — is calling for a jihad in the form of sacrifice and religiously motivated suicide. Allow me to quote from another speech, made three weeks before the Bet Lid bombing: How do the bicycles of children turn into mines? How does an infant, when she is arrested, turn into a knife?"

Begin continues: "This is incitement to terror, including suicide as a means, on the part of a partner who, at the very same time, has repeated time and again that he considers the Oslo agreement to be no more than the

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Treaty of Hudaibiya, an Islamic symbol of treachery and violation of agreements. It is in the hands of this PLO gang leader that the Israeli Government is relinquishing additional parts of Eretz Yisra'el, cities and towns which will definitely become hotbeds of terror and safe havens for terror, as did Gaza and Jericho before them."

The text of a report by David Makovsky on page 1 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 10 August adds: "PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's recent videotaped statements, which included favorable references to jihad (holy war) and a laudatory comment about a Palestinian terrorist involved in a 1978 atrocity were 'unnecessary' and 'do not contribute to the peace process,' Israel's Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich said in a prepared statement last night.

"The statement was issued by the Prime Minister's Office just before midnight after the videos were played on both Channel 1 and Channel 2.

"Rabinovich made clear that Israel's primary criteria for judging the Palestinian Authority [PA] would be more by its deeds than its words, citing the PA's new efforts in the fight against terrorism."

Netanyahu on Settler Actions, Honoring Agreement

TA0908170395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu says he understands what drove hundreds of people to block roads yesterday throughout the country, and he believes most of the protesters did not cross the line of the law. Netanyahu and other Likud members today joined their colleague Ari'el Weinstein's sit-down strike opposite Orient House in East Jerusalem — this, to protest what they called the illegal operation of Palestinian Authority offices in the capital. Netanyahu said that should a Likud government come to power, it will immediately close down the PLO's headquarters in East Jerusalem. The Likud leader was speaking to No'omi Segal on the streets of Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] We are standing in the heart of Jerusalem, which the Labor government has promised will remain undivided under Israeli rule. But, in fact, there is behind us an immune and sovereign compound of a PLO government; this is the seat of a PLO government. Jerusalem is being redivided, a new Berlin Wall is being erected in the heart of Jerusalem, and that's not good for anyone, and certainly not good for peace.

[Segal] What is your reaction to the kind of demonstrations we saw this week, of people blocking roads? Is this against the law?

[Netanyahu] I think this is a sign of the kind of rift that is taking place in the Israeli public, when many in the public feel, as we do, that the government without receiving a clear mandate has decided to give away the heart of the Land of Israel to the PLO, to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and to sundry other terrorists. I think that this should serve as a warning signal to the government that it must go back to the people before results that none of us will transpire and that all of us must work to prevent. [sentence as heard] I think that protest is natural, necessary. It should be done within the context of the legitimate means that are accepted in democracies — that is, passive resistance, no violence, and the acceptance of the supremacy of the law. Those who transgress against the law must be prepared to pay a personal price for it.

[Segal] So do you think those demonstrators did transgress against the law?

[Netanyahu] Some of them probably did, and those who did will be accountable, obviously. This is the whole idea; this is what Martin Luther King wrote in his famous letter from Birmingham jail. It's a form of protest.

[Segal] So you wouldn't condone [word indistinct]?

[Netanyahu] I think that what is required is to stay within these legitimate means and not to go beyond it. My impression was that yesterday, by and large, these bounds were not crossed and it's important not to cross them in the future.

[Segal] So you don't see the calls that they made as any kind of incitement?

[Netanyahu] Well, I heard some of the things that I found absolutely objectionable. The equation of the government with the Nazi government or other calls to throw the car of a minister in an abyss — these are absolutely repugnant and unacceptable. But, the general form of protest that we saw yesterday could have been seen on the streets of Paris, on the streets of Birmingham, or on the streets of London on many, many occasions. I think this line should not be crossed. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 9 August carries a live interview with Netanyahu by Mikha'el Tuchfeld. Asked whether as prime minister he will honor the agreements signed by the current government, Netanyahu answers that the PLO is constantly violating agreements, "and obviously an agreement which is being violated does not bind any side." Netanyahu adds: "When we form the government, we will act according to Israel's national interests, mainly its security

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interest. We will examine the situation on the ground as it actually is."

[Asked again whether the Likud will honor agreements reached by the government, Netanyahu says: "We will only honor the agreements honored by the other side. This does not apply to the Oslo agreement, which even government spokesmen admit is being constantly violated, both in minor and major areas."]

Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin has denounced yesterday's disruption of traffic by settlers. Most of whom, he said, are law-abiding citizens and not affiliated with the Zo Artzenu movement. He told Israel Radio that as long as the government maintains a majority in the Knesset it must be permitted to implement its policies. Begin noted that there are legal ways to dissent, but blocking intersections is not one of them.

The leader of the Tzomet Party, Refa'el Eytan, has also sharply criticized protesters who block roads. He told a youth group in the Qatif Bloc this evening that such acts are liable to alienate the rest of the opposition and lead to civil war.

Demonstrators Released, To Be Charged Later

TA0908160395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army has removed 10 settlers from a hill near Karmey Tzur. This follows a confrontation earlier today between the settlers and several Palestinians who live in the area.

The police have released most of the more than 100 protesters detained while blocking roads around the country yesterday. The police say they will soon charge the dozens of demonstrators detained near Kefar Habad on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. A man from Kefar Habad was charged in Rehovot today with damaging a police radio and disrupting traffic on the freeway. He pleaded innocent. The trial will be held next month.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has complained to police about a new bumper sticker which says: "Don't evacuate the settlers, shoot them." The stickers were distributed throughout the country yesterday by a group calling itself the Anarchic Brigade of the Upper Galilee.

Officer Cadets To Handle Settler Demonstrations

TA1008090095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several companies from the army's officers school have been ordered to temporarily stop their training and are being dispatched to the territories to contend with demonstrations around Bet El.

A senior Central Command source yesterday confirmed that a decision to send out the officer cadets was taken earlier in the week, as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] began planning to deal with further demonstrations by settlers. The decision was made, he said, so that experienced soldiers would be involved.

Army sources stressed that until now, there has not been a single case of a Hesder yeshiva [institution combining religious studies with IDF combat service] soldier disobeying an order in the territories. The army, however, has not sent homogenous Hesder units to control demonstrations in the territories.

Sharon: Settlers To Occupy Hills After Withdrawal

TA1008090595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Aug 95 p A1

[Report on interview with Likud Knesset member Ari'el Sharon by Aviva Lory; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] "What you see on the hills now is only a sneak preview of the main struggle," Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon said in an interview with HA'ARETZ in the aftermath of the settlers' actions two days ago, in which they blocked road junctions throughout the country and set up new encampments on the West Bank.

In Sharon's opinion, the main struggle will start upon the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the cities in the West Bank. "In order to survive, the settlers will be forced to occupy the hills surrounding their settlements. After all, it is inconceivable that Jewish settlers should allow Arabs sitting on the nearby hills to shoot at them or that they should put their necks on the chopping block of 'Arafat and his gang of murderers. The main struggle over those hills is still ahead of us in order to protect the roads and to establish territorial contiguity."

Sharon added that to the best of his knowledge, a new group has already organized in the field. According to him, "the settlers will not be alone. Many volunteers will join them very soon. I know about a group — people from Ayyelet Hashahar, Kefar Yehoshua', Bet Hashitta, Nahalal, and 'En Harod; people who do not live in Judaea and Samaria and are not part of an organized political body — who participate in patrols to secure the traffic in Samaria. This is the beginning of a spreading movement which I believe will encompass thousands of people who have waken up and realized the dangers."

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Commentary Views Diversity Among Settler Groups

TA0908114295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by Orit Shohat: "How Many Voters Are There in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the surface, the settlers seem to be a uniform group whose elected leadership — the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza — speaks with a single voice. It appears, however, that a wide chasm exists between Netzarim and Qedumim, Efrat and Elon More, Bet Romano and Ari'el, and between the Alon Shvut Yeshiva and the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva.

For example, the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] group who blocked Israel's main intersections yesterday, staged an operation last year that planned to double the number of settlements which closely resembled last week's activities on Hadagan and Artis Hills. The council did not like those operations, believing that hysterical acts only push them away from the center of the political map.

Last year, the council spokesmen begged Beni Alon to stop the shows and focus on really bringing in more settlers. Eventually, however, the only settlement to increase its population was secular Ari'el, and Ari'el residents cannot be trusted to chain themselves to their homes on evacuation day.

Until this day, not a single serious study has been published analyzing the various shades of the settlements population. For instance, we do not know the number of U.S., French, or Belgian citizens who live there, and what political groups they belong to. I once read a letter to the editor in the Memad Movement publication that accused religious U.S. immigrants of spoiling religious Zionism, making it extreme beyond recognition.

Moshe Feiglin, the founding father of Zo Artzenu, said yesterday: "We are not Kahana, we are nobody else; but we clearly are Kahana and all the rest." His comrade in the movement, Beni Alon, attempted to establish an alternative Gush Emunim last year, but failed. Hence, uniformity in the settler camp is not self evident — it is only presented that way on the outside.

The figure of 140,000 settlers (which has never been confirmed and cites council spokesmen) means no more than three Knesset seats because half of them are underage. If we consider the fact that the settlers are not a homogeneous group — the wide gaps between the wishes of the religious and nonreligious; the substantive difference between the inhabitants of the Neve Ativ Golan resort, currently for sale, and the residents of Nov, from which the most extreme and violent settlers come; the clear difference between the eccentric settlers of the Hebron Hills and the inhabitants of Alfe Menashe, the spitting image of the Rishon Leziyyon and Kfar Saba residents; the distinction between Moshe Levinger and Rabbi 'Amital and between Nadya Matar and Vered No'am — we will have to admit that the picture is not at entirely clear and that each group may be seeking a totally different political solution.

The main role the settlers are playing is acting as Binyamin Netanyahu's troops on his march to power; his attempts to find alternative demonstrators having failed. Because the extravaganzas on the hills, intersections, and boats get a lot of media coverage, Labor must try to split the settlers into subgroups, isolate the extremist elements, and show just how small they really are and how frightening their extremism is.

The settlers are not an electoral power, only a fermenting agent. Instead of talking with their official and more media-oriented representatives who thrive on instigation, Labor should start employing market segmentation methods in order to find out who are the 140,000 people Beni Alon speaks for, threatening with a civil revolt, and whether the council still represents their true wishes.

If the settlers' claim that the Oslo agreement has turned the tables and that new elections are called for, perhaps the balance of power among the settlers' factions has changed as well and there are more Yo'el Bin-Nun's than Hanan Porat's. After all, it is clear that Yehuda 'Etzyon will not leave his home under any pretext. People like him, who wish to "purge" Temple Mount, will eventually fence themselves in, with several hundred zealots, in some Massada- like settlement the end of which no one can foretell.

Leaflet Distributed to Waqf on Temple Mount

TA0908050095 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following document is a translation of a flyer which was distributed by Hay Veqayam [Long Live the Hebrew Revolution] to the Arab police known as the WAQF on the Temple Mount.

Hay Veqayam is a Jewish group which has been struggling for Jewish rights on the Temple Mount. Presently, any Jew who attempts to pray on the Mount is beaten and arrested by the Israeli police at the request of the WAQF. TO THE MOSLEM WAQF ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT:

You are surely aware of the fact that in recent months, more and more Jews are requesting to pray on the Temple Mount. On the Mount once stood the Holy

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Temple which was built by Shlomo the King of Israel — after the G-d of Israel appeared to his father King David in that place.

You, who are faithful to Islam, have been attempting to distort history for hundreds of years, by saying that the Jewish kings were actually Moslem. By doing so, you hoped to chase the Jews away from their heritage, from the Temple Mount and from all of Israel.

However, the truth is that any holiness that "Haram al-Sharif" has for you — comes only from you stealing it from us. The thief can not expect to possess his stolen object for eternity. There is a judge and there is justice, the G-d of Israel will not permit injustice to reign forever.

The day will come when the stolen object shall return to its rightful owners — the Temple Mount will return to be the holy center for the Jewish people, under Jewish sovereignty — and that day is not far away.

This theft and distortion could have been a passing joke — and could have ended 28 years ago — if the government of Israel would not have been so frightened of your imaginary power and from the empty threats of of your Jihad.

You must understand that our problem with the government of Israel — which helps you prevent Jewish prayer on the Mount — is an internal Jewish problem. From the foolish mistakes of our government which lacks faith, you can't make any long term plans. The end of this absurd situation is coming closer.

Remember Jewish destiny and eternity: when Islam was born Judaism was already fully formed. Dynasties, empires and dictators have risen and fallen — the people of Israel have survived throughout all of the exiles from our land, until G-d has returned us to Zion — so that we may rebuild the Temple on the Temple Mount which you have locked before us.

In the depth of your hearts, you know that we are right: You are mere irrelevant thieves, who have occupied and settled on our holy place.

According to Jewish law, you should be forbidden from entering the area close to our holy of holies. Perhaps, in the southern area of the mount, near al-Aqsa, you could be permitted to enter and continue to pray as you now do, towards Mecca. This we would perhaps permit, if your behavior was acceptable.

We shall warn you that the G-d of Israel will judge any Moslem who dares to lift a hand on a Jew wearing a prayer shawl.

Think twice about your actions, while there is still time left, before the Jewish people are fully redeemed and before you are caught in your own trap. [Signed] Hay Veqayam

Shetrit Pulls Back From Prayer at Temple Mount

TA1008102295 (Internet) Shomron News Service in English 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Religious Affairs, Mr. Shim'on Shetrit, announced that he is pulling back from his idea to make arrangements for prayer times that would accommodate Jews wishing to pray on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Shetrit thought it appropriate to attempt to implement separate hours for Moslem and Jewish worshippers, similar to the existing arrangements at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. Sources stated that Prime Minister Rabin expressed his disapproval with the idea and the Minister backed off.

Clarification Given to Jordan on Court Decision

TA0908174195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has officially informed Jordan that no change whatsoever has occurred in the Israeli position since 1967 with regard to banning Jews from performing prayers and religious rites on the Temple Mount. Our political affairs correspondent adds that the Israeli clarifications were made in the wake of a decision by the High Court of Justice allowing Jews to pray, in an exceptional manner, on the Temple Mount on last Sunday [6 August] only.

Closure Imposed on Gaza Strip for 'Security Reasons'

TA0908174595 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was announced this evening that a closure will be imposed on the Gaza Strip for security reasons. The closure will start at 0100 [2200 GMT] and continue through 11 August.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 9 August includes a report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik adding: "The closure is being imposed for what are termed security considerations. Unconfirmed information, however, indicates the two-day closure will be imposed because of information obtained by the Shin Bet according to which

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Palestinian elements who have heard the optimistic rumors about the initialing of some kind of agreement between Israel and the Palestinians as early as tonight are trying to carry out a massive attack inside Israel. This is the reason that the Gaza Strip is being closed, to prevent any possibility of somebody trying to harm the progress in the negotiations.]

Rabin Interviewed on Peace Prospects

MS1008102795 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 10 Aug 95 p 13

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by David Gardner and Julian Ozanne on 9 August; place not given: "Jerusalem And Beyond"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem — Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel's veteran soldier prime minister, does not give the impression of being a leader at bay.

He was publicly called a "murderer" by the crowds at the scene of the latest Islamic fundamentalist suicide bomb attack on Israelis last month. He is under siege from militant Israeli West Bank settlers who fear Mr Rabin is selling them out in favour of peace with the Palestinians. And he is trailing badly in the polls ahead of next year's elections.

But in conversation, he appears unperturbed. In his slow, nicotine-tuned growl, he told the FT [Financial Times] in an interview in Jerusalem yesterday: "I believe in what I am doing. As long as I have a majority in the Knesset, I will continue the (peace) policy."

Mr Rabin's government is locked in highly charged negotiations with Mr Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation on the "interim" or second phase of the 1993 Oslo peace accord. This should extend the writ of the Palestinian Authority from Gaza and Jericho — handed over last year — throughout most of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Yesterday, however, more mindful of the opinion polls than he lets on, he was at pains to spell out his government's limits in accommodating Palestinian national ambitions.

"Many Israelis still can't digest what the present government is trying to achieve," he said. "I by no means have the intention of returning to the pre-1967 lines" — in other words to behind Israeli borders before the conquests of the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem in the 1967 six-day war.

In his most forthright statement yet of how he sees the final shape of peace with the PLO, he spelt out that Israel would keep "a united Jerusalem... and beyond what is now united Jerusalem, under Israeli sovereignty". He thereby dismissed Palestinian hopes of recovering east Jerusalem as the capital of their future state, or the large Israeli settlements that ring it. He added the Palestinian state would be "a less than independent state".

Furthermore, he said, Israel would insist on "defensible boundaries", and would thus keep the Jordan valley and "land annexed to it" as its main shield against attack from the east.

All the areas mentioned by the prime minister are listed under UN resolutions as occupied Arab land, and negotiations on who should have them are not due to start until "final status" talks — the third phase of the Oslo process — in May next year.

Fears on both sides that decisions taken now could pre-determine the final outcome have bedevilled the "interim" negotiations, holding up the redeployment of Israeli troops away from Arab towns and Palestinian Authority elections for more than a year.

The 73-year-old Israeli premier accused by critics of indecision and of failing to build a constituency for his peace strategy, also insisted that what was being offered to Mr 'Arafat was generous, going beyond the initially envisaged second stage of Oslo. Israel would cede civil and military control in six main Palestinian towns. In the rural hinterland of the West Bank, civil and some policing authority would be transferred, with Israel retaining "overriding security responsibility in fighting terrorism". In a third swathe covering two-thirds of the West Bank, Israel would keep full military and civilian authority, except in health, education, welfare, direct taxation and tourism.

Will this be seen to be fair by Palestinians, whose support for the agreement offers Israelis their best hope of security?

"When could 'Arafat dream that a government of Israel would give him control of Gaza and Jericho, and the six major towns and cities of the West Bank — and as a stage towards a permanent solution," Mr Rabin said gruffly.

"Without the policy of the present Israeli government, he ('Arafat) could have stayed in Tunis for the next 20 years without getting anything, and have so-called ambassadors all over the world, but with no leg anywhere in what used to be Palestine under the British mandate. He could pretend, but would have nothing."

There has never been any love lost between the two men, or between Mr Rabin and President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria. Israel and Syria have been in on-off negotiations on a return to Syria of the Golan Heights — also captured in 1967 — in exchange for normal commercial and diplomatic relations and security guarantees.

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Mr Rabin criticised Mr Asad for breaking an agreement with the US to hold a second round of talks between senior Syrian and Israeli military officers last month. Syria's refusal to enter direct bilateral talks, preferring US mediation, made the negotiations more difficult, he said. "It looks to me that the Syrians believe the role of the United States is to deliver Israel to them on their terms. It won't work this way."

But Mr Rabin said he felt all countries in the Middle East needed partners to face the new threats of the future. "The enemies of the past are not the enemies of the future," he said.

It is the "ugly wave" of Islamist extremism — "Khomeynism without Khomeyni" — which he believes could engulf the whole region. "This is the threat, not 'Arafat, not even President Asad."

July 'Peace Index' Poll on Peace Process

TA0908043295 (Internet) Israel Information Service in English 7 Aug 95

["Public Opinion Poll — The Peace Index, July 1995" from HA'ARETZ, 6 Aug 1995, page B3]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli public's positions for or against the peace process and its various aspects are rather crystallized, and are becoming more solidly based with time. The findings of a survey on which the "Peace Index" for the month of July (conducted on July 27, three days after the bomb attack on a No. 20 bus in Ramat Gan) is based are similar to those registered in the past year. They strengthen the conclusion that the impact of one-time events on public opinion is limited, and the ratio between the "camps" remains relatively permanent.

In the General Peace Index, expressing the rate of support for the regional peace process as a whole, and the faith that it will bear tangible fruit, there has, indeed, been a distinct drop statistically; but it was moderate — from 59.8 percent in favor in June to 54.4 percent in July. On two specific items, the Oslo Index (48.4 percent in June compared with 45.9 percent in July), and the Syria Index (41.7 percent in June, 40.5 percent in July), the drop was small and not statistically substantial.

The survey also shows that, compared with June, the proportion of those who chose non-committal stands on the questions posed had dropped in July compared with June. There was a commensurate rise in the number of those willing to take definitive stands regarding the peace process. The polarization between the camp of supporters and the opponents appeared to be major.

The survey also indicates that the feeling of personal security of Israel's residents is discernibly higher today than it was some months ago. Whereas in March 64.4 percent felt that personal security was worse or much worse since the start of the peace process, in July, despite the Bus No. 20 attack, the percentage of those feeling that way went down to 47.7 percent. And while in March only 8.9 percent thought that personal safety had improved, in July 20.4 percent thought that. This trend may be explained by the decline in the frequency of terrorist strikes in recent months; another possibility is that a kind of "routinization" has occurred in the public's attitude to terrorist events, however tragic they are, compared perhaps to the public's feelings about traffic accidents which take a heavier toll of blood daily.

There has also been a trend of improvement in the public's assessment of the functioning of the Palestinian leadership. In January, only 20 percent thought that leadership was working to prevent acts of terrorism, while in July that proportion had risen to 37.6 percent. There was also a rise in the number endorsing the manner of the Palestinians' implementation of their part of the Oslo Agreement. While in March 63.6 percent thought the Palestinians were not carrying out their part of the agreement, in July only 45.3 percent thought that. It therefore appears that the public has become conditioned to the reality created after the Oslo Agreement and is more inclined than in the past to believe that the Palestinian side is acting in the spirit of the agreement.

However, this does not mean that Israeli readiness to evacuate settlements in the West Bank has also increased. Actually, the willingness to remove all the settlements in the West Bank in the framework of a final peace agreement is still small, and even dropped from 26 percent in March to 22.2 percent in July. There was a proportionate increase in the resistance to evacuation — even of a single settlement — from 30 percent to 37.5 percent. Likewise, there was a rise in the number of those who think that if it is decided to withdraw from the West Bank in the framework of the final peace agreement with the Palestinians, the settlers should be permitted to stay in their settlements, on their own responsibility; in March the figure was 47.8 percent, while in July it was 53.2 percent.

This issue is linked to the public debate regarding the obligation of soldiers to obey an order to evacuate settlements and villages in the West Bank. A level of 52.3 percent replied that a soldier must carry out such an order unconditionally; 23.4 percent replied that he is entitled to refuse such an order, but must be ready to accept the punishment for it; and 18.5 percent argued that he is entitled to refuse, and not be punished; 5 percent chose to reply "Don't know." In May, the figures were 57, 22, 15 and 6 percent, respectively, in the

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above categories. The proportion of those supporting absolute compliance to an order in this matter, therefore, comprised only about half the public, and even this figure has fallen somewhat lately. Concurrently, the number of those who think refusal to obey the order should not be punished, has gone up.

However, in reply to the question of whom should a religiously observant soldier, who usually accepts the authority of the Council of Rabbis of Judaea and Samaria, obey in the event of a contradiction between the rabbis' rulings and a military order, 73 percent replied that he should obey the order, and only 15 percent said he should act according to the rabbinical edict; 11.4 percent could not decide on this issue. As expected on questions of this nature, there was a close correlation between the level of religious observance and the replies: thus, for example, of those who defined themselves as religious, including the ultra-Orthodox, only 22.8 percent argued that the soldier must unconditionally obey an order to evacuate, compared to 55 percent among traditional Jews and 58 percent among the secular. 37 percent of the religious felt the soldier was entitled to refuse without being punished, compared to 21.8 percent among the traditional, and 12.2 percent among the secular.

The close connection between attitudes on issues linked to the peace process and the ideological characteristics of various sectors of the population, such as the degree of religiosity or ethnic origin, contributes to the deepening of the rift between opponents of the peace process and its supporters, and increases the potential for a confrontation between them, as the events of recent days have confirmed.

[The Peace Index Project is directed by the Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Studies at Tel Aviv University, headed by Professor Efraim Ya'ar, Dr. Tamar Herman, and Professor Aryeh Nadler. The data were assembled through a telephone poll by "Modi'in Ezrahi." The survey included 502 respondents, a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel.]

Yosi Ahime'ir Replaces Late Likud MK Kaufman

TA0808135795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 95 p 12

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud MK [Knesset Member] Hayim Kaufman, 60, died of cancer yesterday, following several months of hospitalization.

He will be replaced by Yosi Ahime'ir, who is next on the Likud list. Ahime'ir formerly served as prime minister Yitzhaq Shamir's bureau chief. [passage omitted]

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Official on Defection of Saddam's Daughters, Family

NC1008081195 Paris AFP in English 0757 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 10 (AFP)—The two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn have defected to Jordan with their husbands, Jordan's foreign minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Thursday [10 August].

Al-Kabariti told AFP that Saddam's daughters arrived in Jordan Tuesday with their husbands, former Iraqi industry minister Hasan Kamil Hasan [name as received] who was sacked Wednesday, and his brother General Saddam Kamil, a senior officer in Iraq's crack Republican Guard.

Al-Kabariti spoke of "family quarrels" among the Husayns, but said the main reason for their flight was "the deterioration in the situation in Iraq." King Husayn granted the group political asylum Thursday.

King Grants Asylum

JN1008071095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible Jordanian source has stated that Staff Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi minister of industry and director of the Military Industrialization Organization; his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil; Major 'Izz-al-Din Muhammad Hasan; their families; and a number of companions arrived in Amman on Tuesday, 8 August 1995. Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, who had the honor of meeting with his Majesty King Husayn after his arrival, requested his majesty to allow him and his companions to stay in Jordan, appealing to his majesty's care for them in esteemed Arab Jordan. His Majesty King Husayn has graciously issued his royal instructions to welcome them and take care of them as brothers from sisterly Iraq, who chose Jordan — the refuge of the children of the nation in good and bad times — as a place of residence and a safe haven where they find security and respectable life under the canopy of its leadership.

Saddam's Son Visits 10 Aug

NC1008130095 Paris AFP in English 1255 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 10 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Udayy visited Amman on Thursday [10 August], following the announcement that two of Saddam's daughters and their husbands defected to Jordan, reliable sources said.

'Udayy 'To Hold Talks' With Officials

JN1008132395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, one of the prominent pillars of the Iraqi regime and President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, has fled to Jordan with his brother, who is also the Iraqi president's son-in-law. They are accompanied by their wives. We have just learned that 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's son arrived in Amman a short while ago. According to sources in Amman, the reason is to hold talks with Jordanian officials.

'Udayy's Carries Message From Saddam

NC1008134095 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Aug 10 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Udayy visited Amman on Thursday [10 August], following the announcement that two of Saddam's daughters and their husbands defected to Jordan, a Jordanian minister said.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told AFP that 'Udayy and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, an advisor to the Iraqi president, had "asked for an audience with King Husayn."

'Udayy was to hold talks with Jordanian officials and give a message from Saddam to the king on his first visit to Jordan in several years, reliable sources said. [passage omitted]

Israeli Radio Reports More Details

JN1008155995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Aug 95

[From the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's eldest son, arrived in Amman today. He is accompanied by 'Ali Hasan al- Majid, adviser to the Iraqi president, who was relieved of the post of defense minister in May [month as heard].

Al-Kabariti added that 'Udayy and al-Majid requested a meeting with King Husayn. They arrived in the Jordanian capital one day after it was announced that the Iraqi president's sons-in-law Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil Hasan, along with their wives, who are the Iraqi president's daughters, and a number of relatives and aides, arrived in Amman.

A reliable source in Amman said that 'Udayy carries a message from his father, the Iraqi president, to King

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Husayn. King Husayn has not yet set a date to meet with the Iraqi delegation.

The Jordanian foreign minister absolutely ruled out the possibility that Jordan will hand Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan to Iraq if Baghdad so requests. He said: This is absolutely out of the question. He who enters the house of Abu-'Abdallah [King Husayn] will be secure.

In another development, Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, a brother of the Iraqi president, was wounded in a shooting incident during a joyous ceremony held the day before yesterday, Tuesday [8 August], on the seventh anniversary of ending the Iraq-Iran war.

This was revealed today by the newspaper BABIL which is run by 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's eldest son. The paper points out that a relative of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan was also wounded in the incident and that their condition does not call for concern.

Saddam Husayn removed his half-brother Watban from the post of interior minister three months ago and appointed him as his adviser.

Paper Calls for 'Urgent' Meeting on Mosque

JN0908081595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Aug 95 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "What Happened in the Ibrahimi Mosque Threatens Recurrence in the Holy Mosque of Jerusalem"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While hundreds of millions of Arabs and Muslims are celebrating Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary, one of the largest Jordanian fears, which was long warned of, has come into being. In other words, a proposal to divide the al-Aqsa Mosque was on the agenda of the Israeli Government's extraordinary meeting held yesterday on the initiative of the religious affairs minister in Yitzhaq Rabin's government.

Despite the fact that a decision was not made on this proposal, which the Israeli prime minister deemed inappropriate, particularly at this phase, the mere presence of an official Israeli policy designed to apply to the Holy Mosque of Jerusalem the same thing that was applied to the Ibrahimi Mosque should turn on a red light throughout the Arab and Islamic Worlds.

We believe that it is necessary to maximally promote the Jordanian initiative on the need to take a coordinated Arab position on the threats posed to the al-Aqsa Mosque by quickly calling for an urgent meeting for the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Arab League. Perhaps, such a meeting will yield an Arab-Islamic position capable of stopping the new Zionist onslaught on Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque.

No doubt, the official Israeli call for dividing the al-Aqsa Mosque is not isolated from the ongoing, unprecedented, and wild settlement activity carried out by extremist members of the Israeli right-wing and religious parties amid indications on the presence of some collusion between these settlers and some circles in the Israeli Government, army, and security forces.

Given this development, and before the worst happens, which Jordan has frequently warned of, we persistently call for holding an Arab-Islamic meeting at the highest possible level in order to discuss this serious situation and adopt the most effective means of preventing the fall of the al-Aqsa Mosque into the hands of the Temple Mount Faithful who constantly call for demolishing this mosque and rebuilding the temple in its place.

Telecommunications Minister Meets PA Counterpart

JN0708151295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jamal al-Sarayirah, minister of post and telecommunications, today received Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Ashhab, minister of post and telecommunications in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA]. The two sides reviewed the Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the field of post and telecommunications. They also discussed following up the implementation of the cooperation agreement signed between the two sides in this domain.

They discussed measures taken with regard to the exchange of post between the two countries and the possibility of relaying Palestinian mail to Arab countries through the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan once the Palestinian postal facilities are ready for such an arrangement.

The two sides exchanged views on the PNA's joining the Universal Postal Union and International Telecommunication Union so that it can exchange mail with all world countries and join the international telecommunications network in accordance with the world post and telecommunications agreement.

Energy Cooperation with Algeria Sought

LD0608194095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan wants to develop cooperation with Algeria in the area of energy, especially in

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drilling and geological exploration. The Jordanian minister of energy expressed this interest at a meeting with the Algerian ambassador in Amman yesterday.

Algerian-Jordanian relations have experienced a notable boost in a number of areas including the pharmaceuticals industry. These relations are expected to be greatly bolstered with the meeting of the joint committee of the two countries.

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Radio Notes Defection of Saddam's Family Members

JN1008095395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has announced that Jordan agreed to grant political asylum to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's two daughters and their husbands, Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil Hasan of the Republican Guard.

The Jordanian minister said that Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi minister of industry and minerals and director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and his brother fled from Iraq along with their families and a number of people who are close to them because of the situation prevailing in Iraq.

The Jordanian minister noted the presence of differences within the ranks of the Iraqi regime.

UAE President Concludes 2-Day Visit, Departs

JN0908155795 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, 9 Aug (SANA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], left Damascus at 1400 today at the end of a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw off Shaykh Zayid at Damascus International Airport. He was also seen off by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who is the head of the mission of honor, Syrian Ambassador in Abu Dhabi Mustafa 'Umran, and UAE Ambassador in Damascus Shahin al-Mari. [passage omitted]

Radio: Israel Using 'Cover' for Security Plans

JN1008023995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Whoever has followed the developments of the peace process launched in Madrid toward the end of 1991 will effortlessly find out that the Israelis have constantly shifted emphasis from peace to security, and deemed the promotion of Israel's security the end of the road. Meanwhile, they have chosen to overlook the U.S. peace initiative, which deemed UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the mainstay of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Israel's concept of security is not governed only by military and territorial considerations. It goes beyond this to normalization, confidence-building, and other Israeli idioms that speak of threats emanating from outside the region. Israeli officials have spoken of short-term and long-term threats posed to Israel from outside the region.

Given the overall Israeli rhetoric, one can reach the conclusion that Israel views peace as merely a cover for its security plans, which warrant the swallowing of the territories they are occupying. The Israelis want to control the evolution of history in the region.

Israel's security concept does not only contravene the principle of the inadmissibility of acquiring others' territory by force. It also runs against the principle of exchanging territory for peace, which nullifies any excuse for swallowing any part of territory under security pretexts. In other words, a complete dismantlement of occupation would pave the way for the achievement of peace, which is the antithesis of the Israeli security concept that justifies the realization of gains to the other side's detriment.

Hence, Israel's attempts to obstruct the talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations, but Israeli maneuvers are running into Syria's firm stand. Syria is not bargaining over territory. It will not abandon a single inch of the occupied Golan territory. When it reiterated that it views the achievement of peace as a strategic objective, Syria created propitious circumstances for implementing the U.S. initiative, whereas Israel's acceptance of this initiative was qualified. For the past four years, Israel has continued to obstruct the peace process. Israeli leaders are not seeking a just and comprehensive peace grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. They are seeking the achievement of partial deals to force Israeli security conditions on this or that Arab side. Whenever they find their schemes running into a dead end, Israeli officials resort to maneuvering, create crises, and make accusations to justify their evasion of the requirements of peace, which will not materialize as long as Israel views it as a means to entrench its occupation and expand its domination under false pretexts of security.

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Afghanistan

UN Envoy Visits To Hold Tajikistan Peace Talks

Comments on Kabul's Role in Efforts

LD0508182695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramiro Piriz Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Tajikistan, arrived in Kabul today. BIA reports that he was received at Kabul international airport by the head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the United Nations in Kabul. Piriz Ballon is visiting Kabul as a part of his efforts to resolve the Tajik problem. He will also meet the leaders of the Tajik opposition in the region.

On his arrival at the airport he told a BIA correspondent that he had come to Afghanistan to continue to help the government of Tajikistan and the opposition to find a solution to their military and political problems. Piriz Ballon added: The president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has played an important and constructive role in these efforts, and it is hoped that consultation will be conducted with the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Tajik opposition.

Discusses Peace Process With Lafra'i

LD0608201795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, met Mr. Ramiro Piriz Ballon, UN special envoy for Tajikistan, in his office this morning [words indistinct]. The envoy said: We appreciate the sincere efforts of the Islamic State of Afghanistan to put an end to the hostilities between the Tajik factions. My visit to Kabul was also for this purpose. I am fully confident that my meetings with the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and other leaders of the country will prove fruitful in speeding up the peace process in Tajikistan.

Explaining in detail the constructive stance of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on the Tajik problem, esteemed Najibollah Lafra'i said that he once again expresses the readiness of the Afghan government to host a preliminary meeting of the parties involved to facilitate a later round of talks, and promised any cooperation.

Welcomes Iran's Help in Tajik Crisis

LD0808082795 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 8, IRNA — The U.N. special envoy for Tajikistan, Ramiro Piriz Ballon, here Monday [7 August] appreciated Iran's major efforts to establish peace in Tajikistan and to prepare ground for signing an agreement between Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and Abdullo Nuri, the leader of Tajik Islamic Movement.

Piriz Ballon who is currently in Kabul made the remark in a meeting with Iran's charge d'affaires to Afghanistan, Mohammad Reza Forqani.

In the meeting, the U.N. envoy called for continuation of cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations to settle crisis in that country and establish understanding there.

Outlining Iran's foreign policy with regards to the establishment of peace in the entire region, Forqani voiced his country's readiness for cooperation in solving Tajik problems.

He expressed hope that establishment of peace and tranquility in Tajikistan would solve other regional problems including crisis in Afghanistan.

Piriz Ballon arrived here Saturday to hold talks with Afghan officials and the leader of Tajik Islamic Movement party.

Communique Issued on Pakistani Official's Visit

LD0708213595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Joint communique of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan [IRP].

1. Esteemed Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan, paid an official visit to Kabul from 3 to 4 August 1995 to strengthen mutual relations between the ISA and IRP.

2. Minister of foreign affairs of IRP held detailed and cordial meetings with Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the ISA; esteemed Abdorrab Rasul Sayaf, leader of the Islamic Alliance; esteemed Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, acting Prime Minister; esteemed Ahmad Shah Masud; esteemed Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs; esteemed Seyyed Ali Mohamad Javid, minister of planning; and Dr. Mohammad Yaqub Barekzai, minister of public health.

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3. The minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan gave serious pledges about national unity, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, progress, and prosperity of Afghanistan [words indistinct].

4. The minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan expressed his satisfaction at the improvement of peace and stability in Kabul and the surrounding areas and expressed the hope that Afghanistan will achieve permanent solution of problems on the basis of the will and wish of the people.

5. Both sides put emphasis on the observation of and respect for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of each other as an important factor for the restoration of lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

6. The minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan expressed interest of his country in the reconstruction of Afghanistan as soon as the situation is suitable. In the course of his visit, he donated a quantity of medicine to hospitals in Afghanistan in order to alleviate the need of his Afghan brothers.

7. Both sides agreed to set up a joint ministerial commission to supervise mutual cooperation in various fields.

8. The minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan noted the memorandum of understanding signed by Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan in August 1993, the aim of which was to assess the possibility of setting up joint communication and energy projects in the interest of the three countries. Minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan gave the details of a memorandum of understanding between Pakistan and Turkmenistan about the construction of a gas pipeline between Pakistan and Turkmenistan. On the basis of Article 10 and 11 of the memorandum, Afghanistan will be invited to a tripartite conference about the participation of this country in the realization of the project. [passage indistinct including "paragraph nine" of communique]

10. All Afghan leaders reassured Minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan that as an independent and sovereign state, Afghanistan wants to have friendly relations with other countries on the basis of accepted international norms, mutual respect, and non- interference. The people and the state of Afghanistan give priority to close relations with the people and government of Pakistan.

11. The minister of foreign affairs expressed deep concern about the situation in the occupied Kashmir and the suffering of the Muslims there and noted the persistent efforts of Pakistan to achieve a just and peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem. Minister of state for foreign affairs of Afghanistan once again asserted the support of the Afghan side for a quick solution of the Kashmir problem peacefully and through understanding. Minister of state for foreign affairs of Afghanistan also put emphasis on the need for the protection of and respect for Islamic monuments in India.

12. Both sides reached an understanding to make efforts for the consolidation of mutual relations which comply with the high wishes of the people of the two countries.

13. Both sides put emphasis on the responsibility of the world community as regards the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

14. The minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan expressed gratitude for the welcome he and his accompanying delegation received from the state and the people of Afghanistan during their stay in this country.

15. The minister of foreign affairs of Pakistan invited esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, to pay a visit to Pakistan. A mutually agreed date will be decided later for the visit. [Words indistinct]

Taleban Accused of 'Air Piracy' for Seizing Plane

BK0908145595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Aug 9 (AFP) — Taleban militants are guilty of "air piracy" for forcing down a commercial cargo plane last week and continuing to hold the crew hostage, a spokesman for the affected airline said Wednesday [9 August].

"We suffered an act of international terrorism," said the company's representative, who asked that neither he nor the airline be named.

He confirmed, however, that the plane had been "legally chartered by a Kabul government official," as the pilot had previously claimed.

On Monday an Afghan defence ministry official had said it was still "not clear" who had chartered the aircraft.

Two of Taleban's Mig-21 jet-fighters intercepted the Russian-made Ilyushin-76 cargo jet and forced it to land at the southern provincial capital of Qandahar last Thursday.

Its seven Russian crew members are still being held hostage by the Moslem group.

The group earlier told AFP it found the plane was carrying "millions" of bullets for AK-47 assault rifles as well as two boxes containing anti-aircraft guns

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bought in Albania for forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

In Islamabad, Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali, who had just visited Qandahar, said the plane carried 30 tonnes of small arms, ammunition and anti-aircraft weapons.

But the airline's spokesman said the contents of the cargo were not the concern of his company.

"Our aircraft, on a legitimately contracted flight, was forced to land by gangsters," he said.

There was confusion over the airline that owned the plane. The airline's spokesman said Wednesday that it was based in the Persian Gulf region.

But the plane's Russian pilot was reported earlier in a Pakistani newspaper, The News, as saying the airline was bas@d in Kazan, capital of the Russian republic of Tatarstan, and on Wednesday the Russian news agency TASS appeared to repeat the claim.

The airplane was known to be Russian-made and all its crew members are Russian.

The airline spokesman said that company officials have agreed to talks with Taleban in the Pakistani city of Quetta, after refusing to go to Qandahar where Taleban reportedly wants to meet them and Russian government officials.

The spokesman said since starting its charter flights to Afghanistan in May 1995, the company had made many regular flights to various Afghan destinations, including Qandahar itself.

It is believed that the bulk of its charter work has been for merchants importing cheap electronic goods and textiles from the Persian Gulf to be later smuggled into neighbouring Pakistan.

Taleban Rocket on Kabul Kills 21, Injures 24

LD0908172295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of a rocket attack last night by the Taleban group, 21 Kabul residents were martyred. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that last night at about 0100, 22 rockets from a BM40 multiple rocket system were fired into the western part of Kabul. The rockets were fired from the direction of Kowt-e Ashrow and the areas controlled by the Taleban. As a result of the savage barrage, 21 people became martyrs and 24 others were injured. In one house alone, nine member of one family were martyred. The attack occurred as talks are continuing between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and Mawlana Sherani of Pakistan's Jamiatul Ulema. The Taleban group moved a rocket launcher to the front lines to fire rockets into the western part of Kabul.

Taleban Reportedly Captures Government Position

LD0908225595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Clashes have taken place in Mohammad Aba District, Lowgar Province, between the Kabul administration forces and the Taleban. According to news agencies, fresh clashes occurred yesterday in Mohammad Aba between Taleban and the Kabul administration forces. The Taleban sources said in Peshawar that the Kabul administration armed forces attacked their positions yesterday but the attack was repulsed by the Taleban forces. They captured the Towra Ghondi position and a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the government forces. Nothing has been said so far about the clashes by Kabul administration sources.

'Armed Forces Source' Reports on Recent Fighting

LD0908231695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An armed forces source has reported to BAKHTAR that the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic Army this morning, in carrying out a mopping-up operation, have cleared a vast area in the vicinity of Khoram and Sarbagh Districts, Samangan Province, of Dostam's militiamen.

In the course of this operation, 40 militiamen were killed and a number injured. During this operation the mojahedin seized as booty 13 tanks, one BM21 rocket launcher, one BC artillery piece, five motor vehicles, one ZU-23 set [as heard] and a quantity of various types of ammunition. Twelve militiamen were captured alive.

According to another report, nine commanders together with their 100 armed men, after perceiving the righteousness of the Islamic State, have left the ranks of the militia today and have joined the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army. The commanders who have joined the mojahedin are as follows: Commanders Qorbanboy, Shaykh Hasan Farhad, Mola Ahmad Nur, Taher, Yunisboy, Mola Hayder Akhlaqi, Haji Makhdum, Ustad Sayd Mohammad Zawar, and Commander Ustad Safdar. These commanders are equipped with various kinds of heavy and light weapons.

According to another report, the forces of the Islamic Army this morning have captured 30 important Dostam militia posts in north Salang. While clearing these posts, 17 militiamen were captured alive. Dozens of

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other militiamen were either killed or injured or have been ousted from the battlefield. Hashim Pahlawan and Ma'awen Lal Qumandan, together with another four Dostam commanders were captured by the mojahedin when trying to flee. The fighting is still continuing fiercely in north Salang.

Bangladesh

Opposition MP Seats Officially Declared Vacant

BK0608164295 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The seats of 87 opposition MPs were officially declared vacated on Sunday [30 July] for their absence from parliament for 90 consecutive sitting days, reports UNB.

The decision about the remaining 55 opposition MPs, who also completed the 90-day limit of absence, could not be taken on Sunday as they had signed the attendance register during their boycott of parliament.

The Secretary to the Parliament Secretariat on Sunday night issued two gazette notifications under Rule 178 (4) of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

The seats of 87 members were declared vacated under Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution which says a member shall vacate his seat if he remains absent for 90 consecutive sitting days without the leave of Parliament.

Under one notification published in the gazette, seats of 86 members were vacated for completion of the 90 sitting days on June 20 while the other gazette notification was issued for Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu of Awami League whose 90-day absence was completed on June 26.

The vacated seats included those of former Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim of Awami League; Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Barrister Moudud Ahmed of Jatiya Party; and Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The gazette notifications were sent to the Election Commission at about 0830 on Sunday night.

The rest 55 out of the 142 opposition MPs also completed the 90- day absence but signed the attendance register in the Parliament lobby, creating confusion about their position.

When contacted, Additional Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Khandaker Abdul Haq Mia told UNB that the 55 MPs will be given letters today (Monday) with a request to let the Parliament Secretariat know about their position within three days.

These MPs were not in the House but signed the attendance register, he said adding that the letter will be issued only to avoid any legal complications about their positions in future.

The Parliament Secretariat will take necessary steps after hearing from the 55 MPs.

Parliament Strength Cut in Half; Status Viewed

BK1008060195 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 7 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The strength of the fifth Parliament, with 300 directly elected members, now stands at around half, making it literally a one-party House.

The latest blow to the present Parliament came following the gazette notification announcing the vacation of another 55 seats of absentee Opposition MP's, raising the total to 142.

The total number of vacated seats, all belonging to opposition parties, now stands at 142.

According to Parliament sources the vacated seats include 92 belonging to the Awami League, 28 of the Jatiya Party, 19 of the Jamaat-e-Islami and one each of NDP [National Democratic Party], Workers Party, and Gano Forum. Three opposition seats including that of Hemayetullah Auranga of Awami League and H.M. Ershad of Jatiya Party are still valid. Both are now in prison. The seat of the lone member of Islamic Oikkya Jote (IOJ) Maulana Obaidul Huq also remains since he joined the House for a brief period.

Six MP's belonging to the Jatiya Party who also filed resignations but later attended the Parliament session after joining the ruling BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] still continue to retain their seats. Two MP's belonging to the ruling party died recently and by-elections to their seats are yet to be held.

The gazette notification vacating the seats of the 55 boycotting MP's were announced Saturday [5 August] in the second phase.

The Parliament Secretariat wrote to the absentee MP's to explain their position although they had signed the attendance register kept in the lobby. None of the 55 MP's were learnt to have given any reply within the stipulated time of three days that ended on August 3.

Earlier two gazette notifications, published on July 30 last, announced vacation of the seats of 87 MP's whose absence from the House crossed the 90-day constitutional limit.

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The opposition members tendered en masse resignation on Dec 28.

The belated decision to vacate the seats of the opposition MP's mainly belonging to the three main opposition parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party, and Jamaat-e-Islami — came after the Supreme Court in its opinion on a Presidential reference on the issue declared that "walkout" and "boycott" of the Parliament by the Opposition members must be construed as absence.

The opinion of the Supreme Court was conveyed to the President on July 27. The Speaker finally began to act on the crucial matter and proceeded to vacate the seats.

Zia Says Door Open for Discussions With Opposition

BK1008080695 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 6 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister and BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia said yesterday that her party was still ready for discussions in the interest of democracy, reports BSS.

"We shall keep up the democratic process at any cost. The door for discussions is still open," she said.

Begum Zia was winding up the 10-hour long discussions on current political situation at an emergency meeting of BNP National Executive Committee held at 30 Hare Road in the city.

The BNP chief stressed that understanding has to be reached through discussions within the framework of definite time. "In case the framework of definite time is over; there will be no alternative but to go for the process of law," she added.

Begum Zia made it very clear that the BNP, unparalleled in political movements as well as victors in elections, was not afraid of anybody's threat of agitation and was ready to face its political opponents in the polls anytime.

She said that the BNP had upheld the interests of the people and the country and had never compromised on the question of democracy. It always uphold the constitution of the country, she added.

She said the BNP, which won the free and fair elections, had always stood by the people and would remain with them.

Calling her party leaders and workers to work for the welfare of the people, Begum Zia said the BNP believed in democracy and discussion and would reply to the Opposition's destructive politics with the politics of peace and progress.

The Prime Minister said the people today had identified those who were now trying to create anarchy and disrupting development process for political reasons or for their lust for power.

"The people know the parties and its leaders who believe in the politics of capturing power instead of upholding the independence and democratic values. In fact, the people have identified those who have betrayed with the martyrs of the great War of Liberation and anti-autocracy agitation," she added.

The BNP chairperson called upon her party leaders and workers to unitedly work for the protection of the country's independence, sovereignty, democracy, and ensuring the welfare of the people.

She said the people like the BNP as it is very much with them and expressed her optimism that the people would be with the BNP in the future like in ihe past. Begum Zia also called upon her party men to devote themselves to the welfare of the commonman.

The emergency meeting of the BNP national executive committee, which began in the morning, was attended by as many as 265 members of the committee of whom 50 leaders of different tiers took part in the 10-hour discussions. BNP secretary general and LGRD [Local Government, Rural Development] and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar initiated the discussion.

The National Executive Committee of ruling BNP yesterday voiced its firm resolve to maintain the constitutional process and urged the party leadership to take all steps for ensuring free and fair elections, report agencies.

The executive committee meeting reposed all powers on the party chairperson and the standing committee to decide the course of action to deal with the situation caused by the vacation of seats of some opposition MP's.

"There is no constitutional crisis in the country.... rather a few political parties and individuals, rejected by the people in last general election, is trying to create an artificial political crisis to capture power in unconstitutional manner by removing the elected government", said a resolution of the meeting.

It urged the party's top leadership and the government to take all necessary steps for ensuring a free and fair election.

The meeting decided to step up organisational and political activities. It also decided to form district and thana [subdistrict] committees where full committees were not constituted. The meeting urged the central

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leaders and party MP's to extend their cooperation in this respect.

It directed BNP's front organisations to accelerate their organisational activities.

The meeting urged the government to take steps for keeping the prices of essentials within the purchasing capacity of the people. It also called for necessary steps for further improving the law and order situation in the country.

The BNP, in another resolution, urged the Muslim ummah [community] to be united for the withdrawal of arms embargo on Bosnia.

The meeting urged the government to further gear up the relief and rehabilitation programs in the flood affected areas and at the same time requested the leaders and workers at rank and file, wellwishers and well-to-do people to continue their relief operations with their all possible means.

In another resolution, the meeting directed to complete all the district and thana committees immediately. [sentence as published] It directed the central leaders and MP's of the thanas and districts concerned to extend their all-out support in this respect.

Opposition Demands Dissolution of Parliament

BK1008090995 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 7 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) yesterday warned against any attempt to hold "farcical" by-elections to the 142 vacant seats of the Opposition MP's.

The six-hour meeting, chaired by party chief Sheikh Hasina, reiterated the demand for dissolution of the present "illegal" and "ineffective" Parliament immediately and holding of general elections under a non-party caretaker government.

The ALCWC noted that the present Parliament was constitutionally ineffective and non-existent after the vacation of its 142 seats. Elaborating, it resolved that this Parliament, with its present strength, was unable to exercise its constitutional right to amend the Constitution and to impeach the President.

The meeting resolved that the people would resist any move for holding by-polls and the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] government would be held responsible for "any situation".

According to meeting sources, the latest formula for a caretaker government suggested by Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed came up for discussion but the speakers viewed that the AL [Awami League] should monitor the government stand on the issue and watch how the ruling party responds. At one stage of the discussion, AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu explained the formula he floated recently.

The meeting felt that it had therefore become imperative for the President to dissolve Parliament and take effective measures for holding general elections under a caretaker administration for the sake of continuation of the constitutional process and meeting people's aspirations.

As regards the vacation of the opposition MPs' seats, the meeting said that 147 opposition lawmakers had resigned as per Article 67 (2) of the Constitution on December 28 last year, protesting the BNP government's continued bids to make Parliament ineffective. As per constitutional provisions the seats fell vacant automatically. But the Speaker did not carry out his constitutional responsibility, kept the issue unresolved on various pleas and later rejected the resignation letters to help implement the government design.

The ALCWC termed the Speaker's decision a blow to the Constitution and said it curbed the Opposition MPs' constitutional rights. The Opposition MP's had set a glorious example by relinquishing their powers and privileges in the interest of democracy and people's right to vote and food while the ruling party was doing everything to prolong its stay in power, it added.

But, a resolution of the meeting said the government was pushing the nation toward a deeper crisis through its undemocratic steps, misrule, and corruption.

Held at the Bangabandhu Avenue office of the AL, the meeting expressed concern at the "deterioration" [word as published] law and order and condemned "repression" on AL leaders and workers across the country. The meeting also demanded adequate relief materials for the flood victims and distribution of agricultural equipment among the affected farmers, it prayed for salvation of the departed souls of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman [former president] and others killed on August 15, 1975.

Floods Delay Elections for Vacant Parliament Seats

BK0908153795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As the holding of elections for the 144 vacant seats in Parliament is not possible [word indistinct] within the specified 90 day timeframe, they will be held within the subsequent 90 days. An Election Commission news release issued in Dhaka today said the chief election commissioner feels it is impossible to hold the election for the vacant seats within the specified 90 days due to natural calamity caused by

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floods at various places in the country. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Article 123/4 of the Constitution, elections for these vacant seats will be held in the subsequent 90 days.

Court Orders Release of Convicted U.S. Citizen

BK1008030195 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A High Court division bench of the Supreme Court has decided to reduce the term of punishment of U.S. college girl, Eliadah MacCord, and has ordered her release. She was sentenced to a life term for bringing heroin to Bangladesh. The court decided to reduce the term of her punishment due to lack of evidence.

India

Editorial Questions Value of U.S. Defense Talks

BK1008065495 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Aug 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Purblind Policy"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senator Hank Brown's failure to introduce an amendment to the Pressler law seeking resumption of US arms supplies to Pakistan is not a setback that would worry or deter the Clinton administration. It is merely a procedural lapse, and the single-minded determination of senior administration officials to ensure bipartisan Congressional support for the Brown amendment seems destined to succeed. There is no debate over the lethal capacity of the long-range howitzers, Harpoon missiles and the P3C Orion reconnaissance aircraft that are in the package. The contention of Defence Secretary William Perry and Under-Secretary for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff that even with the release of the blocked weapons worth $368 million India will retain its overall conventional military superiority over Pakistan is highly misleading, if not mischievous. Perhaps it is both. For, it rests on the assumption that India needs a defence only against Pakistan. Except for the brief period of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan when Kabul was seen as an enemy, Pakistan has never declared any country to be an adversary except India. In sharp contrast, India's consistent stand since 1962 has been that it must build a defence against China. That position remains unchanged in spite of the efforts to improve relations with Beijing. In fact, the US seemed to appreciate India's security concerns about China during the nonproliferation discussions between the two governments. For the US now to pretend that all of India's military hardware is Pakistan- specific is a mischievous attempt to cover up the American military mission in Pakistan. Its dangerous game of resuming military aid to Pakistan can only serve to show the US in an adversarial light in India when it is getting ready for a general election.

As the US has again begun to call Pakistan an ally, its South Asia policy will increasingly be seen as tilted evenhandedness between an ally and a friend. Whether Washington is warming up to Pakistan again to prevent it from developing military dependence on China, or to ensure that Pakistan does not provide a strategic link between China and Iran is a separate debate. As far as India is concerned, it will have to take into account the American move to trigger an arms race in South Asia at a higher technological level than before. The US has done it in the past, but it ignored India's sensibilities then in the light of the cold war realities. It seems American insensitivity towards India's security concerns remains unchanged despite the end of the cold war. Or, perhaps, Washington is unable to delink India from a vague Third World threat developing towards the West. These are contraband subjects for open debate. What seems certain, however, is that questions will begin to be asked about India's defence relationship with the US if the Clinton administration persists with such an approach towards South Asia. With wide gaps in their threat perceptions for the region, what meaningful defence talks can India and the US engage in?

Daily Views U.S. Move To Provide Pakistan Arms

BK1008065695 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Aug 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Courting Disaster"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abraham Lincoln's quotable quote on the impossibility of fooling all the people all the time must have exerted a strong influence on the U.S. Senate which has deferred consideration of Senator Hank Brown's move to amend the Pressler Amendment on the basis of a one-time exception to allow Pakistan to receive some 370 million dollars of armaments, excluding the F-16 aircraft. The move was inspired by President Bill Clinton, who is widely believed to have made a personal commitment to Ms Benazir Bhutto in this regard. The last time the term "one time exception" was invoked to pass on U.S. arms to Pakistan was in 1969-70. This encouraged General Yahya Khan to unleash the genocidal violence in Bangladesh that led to the 1971 war. The earlier U.S. arms supply to dictator Ayub Khan resulted in his ill-fated adventure "Operation Gibraltar" that escalated into the 1965 war. The massive inflow of U.S. arms into Pakistan in the 80s was intended to secure Pakistan's support for the war in Afghanistan. But this boomeranged because far from keeping its promise

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not to go ahead with its nuclear programme, Pakistan actually acquired nuclear weapons in 1987. And even as the arms inflow introduced the heroin-Kalashnikov culture, Pakistan became one of the fountainheads of Islamic fundamentalism and international terrorism. As Senator Paul Sarbanes pointed out it is Pakistan that should return 3.3 billion dollars of arms supply aid which it took under false pretences of restraining its nuclear weapons programme.

The U.S. administration tries to portray Pakistan as a moderate Islamic state. Pakistan has not amended its blasphemy laws nor its constitution giving supremacy to Shariah. Its minority Ahmediyas have been denied the right to practise their faith. Ms Bhutto has not made one iota of difference to Pakistan's Islamic orientation. Nor has she done anything to attenuate the terrorist violence within Pakistan or across the border in India. It is nearly a month since five foreigners were taken hostage by the self-styled Al-Faran, believed to be part of the PoK-based [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir-based] Harkatul Ansar, which is listed as an international terrorist organisation in the state department's publication "Patterns of Global Terrorism, 1994". A British escapee has described the kidnappers as Afghans and Pathans who could have come into Kashmir through Pakistan. Mast Gul, the man who set fire to Charar Sharif shrine, and who is a member of the Hizbul Mujahideen, has appeared on Pakistan's official T.V. Yet, the Clinton administration is prepared willingly to suspend its disbelief and certify Pakistan as a moderate Islamic state. The U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan had in the past gone to reinforce military dictators. In the mind of the common Pakistani there is a deep distrust of the U.S. and its policies. Ms Benazir Bhutto is not promoting consensual politics in Pakistan but exacerbating divisiveness. The U.S. arms supply will further aggravate that divisiveness.

Pakistan's ISI 'Conspiracy' Reportedly 'Busted'

BK0908152595 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Gujarat, a conspiracy of the Pakistani intelligence agency, the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence], to blow up Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Jail has been busted. An additional director general of police, Mr. Kanu Pillai, has been suspended. Three persons, including two police constables, were arrested last night in this connection. The state chief minister, Mr. Keshavbhai Patel, informed newspersons today in Gandhinagar that the plan to blow up the jail was conceived by antinational elements accused of bomb blast. The chief minister said a detailed report on this conspiracy has been forwarded to the union home ministry. Mr. Patel also indicated that the state government may take help from the center. Our Ahmedabad correspondent Anand Satha reports that a college girl's confessions brought the whole conspiracy to light.

Maharashtra Government May 'Re-Negotiate' Enron

BK0908162395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bombay, Aug 9 (AFP) — The Hindu nationalist government of India's Maharashtra state hinted Wednesday [9 August] it was willing to re-negotiate with Enron Corp. of the United States on its cancelled 2.8-billion-dollar power project.

"If Enron sends us a letter offering to re-negotiate the project then I will place it before the cabinet which will then take a decision (on the letter)," Maharashtra Chief Minister Manohar Joshi told reporters here.

Joshi said his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) state government would not approach the US firm to reopen talks, but added he would not turn Enron away if it offered to renegotiate the deal.

"The Maharashtra government as of now stands by its decision on the project. We have closed our doors and we stand by our decision, but if Enron sends a letter then I will place it before the cabinet," he said.

The chief minister said his government was in touch with legal experts on the issue of renegotiating the deal with the American utilities giant.

The cancellation of the 2,015-megawatt power project has sparked concerns that the move could slow down foreign investments in India, which opened its market four years ago in a bid to lure overseas capital.

The offer came four days the Houston-based Enron Corp. said it would launch arbitration proceedings with Maharashtra's state government on the power project scrapped six days ago.

The Dabhol Power Co. (DPC), a consortium of Enron, General Electric Capital Co. and Bechtel Enterprises, asked the state administration Saturday to fulfill its obligations or pay unspecified sums in damages.

The company has, however, indicated that while it was initiating arbitration proceedings with the state government, it remained "hopeful of reaching a mutually-acceptable solution on the project."

The state's Hindu-revivalist BJP government put paid the gas- fired power plant planned by the Enron-led consortium last Thursday, saying the project was contrary to the interests of Maharashtra's consumers.

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Joshi also ordered a halt to work on the first phase of the power plant being built in the port of Dabhol, 300 kilometers (186 miles) south of the state capital Bombay, as well as the cancellation of the second phase.

The deal was the largest foreign investment project in India since Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao launched his programme of economic reforms after taking office in June 1991.

Construction of the 695-megawatt first phase of the project began in March and continued despite a six month perios of uncertainty surrounding the project.

Former Maharashtra chief minister Sharad Pawar, whose Congress (I) Party government awarded the contract to Enron, launched street rallies this week to protest its cancellation.

India currently has installed capacity of some 80,000 megawatts but an additional 140,000 megawatts of electricity are expected to be needed over the next 15 years. The Indian government, in an attempt to satisfy increasing demand for energy, opened up the enormous power sector to domestic and foreign private companies four years ago, providing a sweeping incentives. Enron Corp. was among the first foreign firms to respond to the government invitation to the private sector to build, own and operate generating stations.

'Firm' Stand Against Negotiation Cited

BK1008034195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, said the Shiv Sena-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] alliance government will not negotiate further on the deal or allow Enron into Maharashtra again. The decision is firm and binding. Speaking to newsmen after the state legislature was prorogued yesterday, he said the government had not made any allegations of corruption but suspected that there may have been some wrongdoing in the Enron deal.

Commentary Views Foreign Minister's Russian Visit

BK0708120595 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Aug 95

[Commentary by M.K. Kaul: "Pranab Mukherjee's Visit to Russia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] To say that the New Delhi-Moscow friendship has withstood the test of the time, is to state the obvious. What does merit appreciation is that it has got further cemented in the post-Soviet Union era. For cynics, if any proof is needed, is India's foreign minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee's just concluded visit to Russia where he held wide-ranging talks for two days with the Russian premier, Mr. Viktor Chernomyrdin, and his counterpart, Mr. Andrey Kozyrev, among other senior dignitaries. How the two nations value each other's friendship could be gauged from the fact that Mr. Kozyrev reiterated his country's earlier stand that India must get a berth as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council when it is expanded. It came in ringing tone at the joint press meet Mr. Mukherjee and Mr. Kozyrev addressed at the end of the two days of successful discussions. It may be taken as a promise for the future.

For such doubting Thomases, one has to recall the observation of the two ministers at the press conference that Russia would not sell military hardware to Pakistan whose only aim is to collect arms from whatever source and at whatever price to use against its peace-loving neighbor. What is of significance is that the issue was not raised during the talks by Mr. Mukherjee. It was despite the fact that the Indian Government is already concerned about the U.S. move to sell nuclear weapons to Islamabad by bringing in an amendment to the Pressler Act for the lifting of embargo on the U.S. F-16 fighter plane supply to Pakistan.

Mr. Mukherjee, a consummate leader, of course, found a merit of issues concerning the welfare of the two good friends which needed to be discussed and debated threadbare than supply of Russian weapons to Pakistan. Russia, for instance, is still to come to grips with competitive market forces because of lack of experience of its planners and administrators who have for decades dealt with a command economic system. Then the advent of hard currency trade between the two countries and other associated problems which have come to play their own role must have loomed large on the two sides that merited consideration.

The fundamentalist militancy that has scarred the peaceful and secular image of one of the most lovely beauty spots of India, Kashmir, is nothing but the creation of Islamabad through its most hated outfit of its own people, Internal Security Intelligence [as heard] or ISI. Can anyone forget the sacrilege committed by the so-called lovers of the Islamic principles to the most revered shrine of the state, Charar Sharif? What is most agonizing for the common man in the state, not withstanding his religious beliefs, is that such should have been the fate of the shrine which for centuries stood as the beacon light of secularism. And then the propaganda of the culprits that it was the handiwork of the armed forces deployed to save home and hearth of the average citizen from the barbaric acts of militants. Indeed Pakistan and its lackeys have stood exposed to the world for a long as far as goings on in the Kashmir valley is con-

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cerned. Yet, it was essential to acquaint the leadership of the friendly countries, especially like Russia, of the latest in the terrorist-burdened state in a wide perspective. Of course, Moscow stood by its committed stand that Kashmir was an integral part of India and if any dispute between Pakistan and India on any residual issue should be resolved through bilateral negotiations. It is not that India is scared of Pakistan. But what it is genuinely concerned about is the arms race that Islamabad's trigger-happy policies can generate in the region which could be ill afforded by any of its countries. What the two neighbors badly need are funds for development and not to play with the fire. That was what Mr. Mukherjee has brought home in Moscow.

PRC Boundary Talks Scheduled in Delhi 18 Aug

BK1008085995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China will resume discussions to settle the boundary question during the eighth meeting of the Joint Working Group, which begins in New Delhi on the 18th of this month. While the Chinese side will be led by its vice foreign minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, the Indian delegation will be headed by the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider. The focus during the two-day meeting is expected to be on issues relating to the implementation of the border peace and tranquility agreement signed during the visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to China in September 1993.

'Breakaway Group' Holds Antigovernment Protest

BK0908125595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The breakaway group of the Congress held a rally in New Delhi today. Addressing the rally, Mr. N.D. Tiwari criticized the functioning of the central government, alleging that no action has been taken against the persons in high offices for their lapses. Mr. Arjun Singh also addressed the rally.

Protest Turns Violent; Over 100 Injured

BK0908140195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Aug 9 (AFP) - More than 100 people were injured here Wednesday [9 August] when tens of thousands of members of a breakaway faction of India's ruling Congress (I) party clashed with police during an attempt to storm parliament.

Riot police used tear gas, water cannons and steel-tipped canes to repulse demonstrators who smashed through steel barricades and tried to rush parliament to demand the resignation of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, witnesses said.

The estimated 30,000 protesters were dispersed by about 4,000 members of the Rapid Action Force, a paramilitary police force, after a street battle during which the police were pelted with stones, bottles and flower pots.

Police said more than 100 demonstrators and policemen suffered injuries in the hour-long free-for-all about one kilometre (half a mile) from the downtown parliament building. Several journalists and passers-by were also hurt.

Many of the injured suffered broken arms and legs, witnesses said. A number of people were seen bleeding from the head after being clubbed by the police or hit by stones and other objects.

Hundreds of shoes and sandals lay strewn on the ground following the clash along with piles of bloodstained clothes and overturned steel barricades.

Arjun Singh and Narain Dutt Tiwari, two of the organisers of the protest, were both blasted from close range by water cannons and briefly detained by police, witnesses said.

Singh, who quit the government in December and was expelled from the Rao-led Congress two months later, accused the police of heavy- handed handling of the protest, saying the police action was "unprovoked and an act of cowardice."

Tiwari announced plans to stage a 24-hour "silent protest" and tied a blue towel over his mouth, a form of protest frequently used by Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi.

In parliament, a member of Singh and Tiwari's breakaway faction of the Congress Party denounced the police and demanded an inquiry into what he described as a police assault on "peaceful party workers."

Shiv Charan Mathur, a member of the so-called "rebel Congress," said the police clubbing of the demonstrators had been "merciless."

Before reaching parliament, the demonstrators held a rally in a park to denounce the Rao government and demand the prime minister's resignation.

"Rao's leadership is non-charismatic and non-articulate," said Tiwari to chants of "Down with Rao." "He should resign immediately."

Tiwari, a veteran politician from Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, slammed the economic reforms begun by Rao after taking power in June 1991.

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"The globalisation policies of the government are not taking us in the right direction," said Tiwari, who was elected president of the breakaway Congress at a rally held here in May.

Speaking on the 53rd anniversary of the "Quit India" movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi to bring about an end to British rule, Tiwari accused Rao of selling India out to multinationals in the name of economic liberalisation.

"The law and order situation in the country is worsening and there is blatant corruption," Tiwari added. "Spiralling inflation has spelt doom for the 550 million people below the poverty line."

Arjun Singh said Rao was incapable of leading the Congress, India's oldest political party, to victory in a general election that has to be held before May of next year.

"Narasimha Rao has totally betrayed the ethos of this great organisation (the Congress) and brought the country to a very sorry pass," he said.

Tiwari, the breakaway Congress leader, told the crowd: "We are here to renew the pledges taken during the independence movement and work for the nation and the re-birth of the Congress.

Government Resolves To Eliminate Nuclear Weapons

BK0908130095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today resolved to continue its efforts to achieve total elimination of nuclear weapons. In a unanimous resolution, both houses of parliament expressed deep sympathy for the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who suffered atomic bombing 50 years ago. The resolution regretted that despite the end of the Cold War, the specter of a nuclear holocaust continues. In this regard, the resolution points out that the action plan presented by Rajiv Gandhi for elimination of nuclear weapons is still valid.

Iran

Official Views Dialogue With West, Nuclear Policy

LD0608190895 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1815 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Mr. Chipman, called on the member of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission, Mr. Larijani, this morning.

Mr. Chipman presented a report on the institute's activities. Mr. Larijani also pointed to the two year-old Iran-European dialogues and asserted that the talks require a constructive atmosphere to come to fruition.

Asked about nuclear policies and also how the West can make sure that Iran is not after nuclear weapons, Mr. Larijani answered that Iran is the safest regional state and has had a good background in this respect so far. Such a security is indebted to Iran's correct foreign policy with its neighboring states, Mr. Larijani mentioned. However, he said that accessing to nuclear facilities for the provision of energy is a must which is never denied by (?wisdom) for a big country like Iran.

PRC Offical Calls U.S. Sanction Efforts 'Futile'

LD0908212495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The deputy chairman of China's State Science and Technology Commission, Mr Zhen met with the Iranian chairman of the Iran-China Joint Committee, Mr. Mirzadeh. He stressed: We are are intent on further strengthening our relations with Iran in all areas of interest, especially science and technology.

He described recent U.S. efforts to impose sanctions against Iran as futile and said: U.S. interventions regarding Taiwan and the violation of China's sovereignty are also doomed to fail.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, at the meeting Mr. Mirzadeh, expressing his pleasure over the trend of expansion in relations between Iran and China, referred to the successful results of the eighth session of the two countries' joint committee in Beijing and said: Iran lays emphasis on the implementation of agreements reached by the two countries, especially those reached during that session, and finding new ways to develop mutual cooperation.

The Iranian chairman of the Iran-China Joint Committee, referring to the expansion of the two countries' relations and economic and commercial cooperation in recent years, said: The volume of bilateral economic, commercial, scientific and technological agreements amounts to $2 billion. We hope the level of economic cooperation will rise further in the future.

He considered U.S. interventionist policies in the affairs of the free and independent countries and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns any interventionist act by the United States aimed at the violation of China's territorial integrity and unity.

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Commentary Views U.S. Objectives in Northern Iraq

NC0908154095 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Jul 95 p 12

[Commentary by Ruzbeh Buolhari: "Stability in Turkey and Northern Iraq From the U.S. Point of View"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In view of the continuation of the war among the Iraqi Kurdish groups during the past days, the United States and Turkey have called on the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK] and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] to display self-restraint. Within the same context, the United States has sent a message to PUK leader Jalal Talabani on mediation efforts, and has called for a meeting between him and DPK leader Mas'ud Barzani.

But why such haste by the United States and Turkey to establish "peace" in northern Iraq?

1. Stability on Turkey's eastern borders: Despite its long war, Ankara has been unable to crush the guerrillas of the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK), and the repeated attacks on northern Iraq and the threats against its neighbors are all rooted in Turkey's inability to find a final solution to the PKK problem. Unrest and instability on Turkey's eastern borders are not to Ankara's benefit and are wasting Turkey's political, economic, and military potentials inside its own borders. At the same time, domestic clashes and the violations of human rights by the Turkish military have been met by criticism from international circles and even Turkey's friends and allies. This issue has also been the reason for Europe's disapproval of Turkey's membership in the European Union and the European Customs Union. Therefore, Turkey's internal tranquility depends on stability in northern Iraq and the creation of special security arrangements to counter the PKK's activities.

Meanwhile, the clashes in Turkey are continuing in view of the PKK's freedom of activity in northern Iraq and they are harming Ankara's regional objectives, one of which is a plan the Republic of Azerbaijan to ship its oil via Armenia and Turkey. This comes at a time when Ankara needs to implement this plan in order to expand its influence in the Caucasus and then in Central Asia.

The continuation of the current situation in Turkey also causes problems for the political and economic scheme that the United States intends for the regional countries. The United States wants to use Turkey as an example for the regional countries in the Caucasus, Central Asia, and the Middle East once peace is established there. Nevertheless, despite the economic and cultural policies that have been implemented in Turkey, it continues to have political problems. Apparently, reforms to their constitution could solve these problems; and from Washington's viewpoint, politically speaking Turkey can and should have a democratically based multiparty system similar to the West, something that would also help Turkey's application for membership in the European Union—a longstanding dream of Ankara.

2. The solution to the Iraqi problem: As far as this issue is concerned, the United States wants a regime to come to power that it can have friendly relations with. But at this time the opposition groups in Baghdad have been unable to show a credible effort to overthrow Saddam Husayn. This has made the United States consider two short-term plans:

A. Compromising with the leadership [in Kurdistan];
B. Overthrowing the leadership in Iraq.

Therefore, by ending the war in northern Iraq, the United States is trying to use the existing forces in Iraqi Kurdistan—the DPK and the PUK— against Baghdad.

3. Confronting Russia's policy: After a pause during which its foreign policy experienced a period of weakness, Russia is trying to revive its influence and presence in various areas, specifically the Middle East. Meanwhile, the improvement of Russia's relations with Iran and Iraq heralds Moscow's growing influence in the northern Persian Gulf, which means a confrontation with U.S. policies in this area. In this context, the changes in Iraq's policies and Baghdad's continuing rapprochement with the West could help the United States achieve its objectives and, at the same time, determine Iraq's future standing. This situation will result in the strengthening of the U.S.'s strategic position in the eastern part of the Middle East and the implementation of a policy of dual containment against Iran and Russia—a policy aimed at rolling back Iran-Russian cooperation.

U.S. Blamed for 'Intervention' in Tehran-Baku Ties

LD0608145295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 6 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Geydar Aliyev, the president of the Azerbaijan Republic, on August 5th, met with Afshar Soleymani, temporary charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baku. The president stressed the friendship with Iran and reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a brother and neighbor of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Mr. Aliyev said: I have always made efforts for the expansion of relations between the two countries and will continue to do so in the future. Informed political sources believe that, although efforts of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Azerbaijan

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Republic have served as firm ground for the promotion of Tehran-Baku relations, these efforts have slacked off in the past few months because of the intervention of some foreign countries in regional issues.

The main factor responsible for the interventions is the U.S. Government which always struggles to create differences among regional countries, especially that of Tehran and Baku, by false propaganda ploys. It was under the influence of such propaganda ploys that the Azerbaijan Republic unilaterally declared null and void its oil deal with Iran last April, resulting in the suspension of cooperation between the two countries in this respect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that, within the framework of bilateral or multilateral cooperation in the region, most of the needs and prerequisites to economic activities with regional countries have been met. Indeed, by the correct realization of the regional and international realities, the expansion of friendly relations with neighboring countries is on the agenda of Iran's policies. In this line, the Islamic Republic of Iran has demonstrated its firm stand in the promotion of brotherly and close cooperation with the Azerbaijan Republic in the recent past.

Now, officials of the Azerbaijan Republic should show, in practice, as stressed by Mr. Geydar Aliyev, that they will not permit foreign countries and the agents dependent on global powers to disrupt the friendship between Tehran and Baku in a bid to preserve their own interests, creating tension in the relations between the two countries.

IPU, Member Nations Urged To Help Bosnia

LD0908220195 Tehran IRNA in English
1410 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 9 (IRNA) — Secretary General of Iranian Inter-Parliamentary Group, Mohsen Yahyavi called on the president of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Ahmad Fathi Sarwar and its over 125-member nations to help the Bosnian nation.

In his message to the member nations of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Yahyavi called for implementation of the resolution of the summit of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the statement of OIC's Contact Group issued in Geneva on July 21.

Yahyavi criticized the United Nations for its inaction and reluctance to resolve the Bosnian crisis and hoped for practical action to implement the decisions of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia. The Iranian parliamentarian called on IPU member states to use their influence with the international organizations to support the independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and the observation of human rights in the republic.

Founded in 1889 in Switzerland, the IPU holds two conferences annaully bringing together national groups of MPs to study political, economic, social, cultural and environmental problems.

Velayati Details Inter-Tajik Talks in UN Letter

LD0508074595 Tehran IRNA in English
0612 GMT 5 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 5, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, outlined discussions held between Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and leader of the opposition groups Sayed Abdullo Nuri.

During the talks, held on July 19, a declaration was signed between the two sides in presence of Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the letter read.

According to the declaration both sides expressed concern over non-incomplementation of the understandings reached during the inter-Tajik peace talks and agreed on terms of their efforts to adopt practical steps for implementing those understandings, the letter said.

"One of the most important issues upon which the president and leader of the opposition groups agreed was to establish a consultative assembly of Tajik peoples to facilitate finding a solution to the political and social crisis in Tajikistan," it stressed.

The government and the opposition will be equally represented in this assembly, it said adding that the date and venue of the assembly will be determined at the fifth round of inter-Tajik peace talks.

The declaration provides for the fifth round of inter-Tajik peace talks to be held sometime between August 1-10, 1995, the letter said. It added that the extension of cease-fire agreement signed in Tehran last year will also be on the agenda of the fifth round of the peace talks.

"Moreover," it said, "the two leaders underscored the important role of the United Nations and other observer countries in the process of settlement of the Tajikistan crisis."

"I am glad to inform you that the signing of this document has created another turning-point in the inter-Tajik peace talks and has provided the necessary foundation and bases for peaceful settlement of Tajikistan crisis," Velayati stated in his letter.

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Hence, the foreign minister stressed, the atmosphere is now more suited to further efforts of the U.N. representative in expediting the process of establishing peace in Tajikistan.

Voicing Iran's readiness to help the U.N. mission, he expressed hope that by the help of God and with the cooperation of the United Nations and observer countries, tranquility and the beginning of reconstruction would be witnessed in Tajikistan.

Velayati's letter to Butrus-Ghali was circulated as a document of the Security Council Friday [4 August].

Italian Official Comments on Islamic Revolution

LD0708191495 Tehran IRNA in English
1757 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA — Head of Italian parliament's cultural commission Vittorio Sgarbi said here Monday [7 August] that his viewpoints about Iran were different from that of his respective country following his meetings with the Iranian officials over the past few days.

Sgarbi, who made the remark in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Taqavi here Monday, said that Iran's Islamic revolution, which revealed Iranian society's full satisfaction with it, was founded to prevent demolishing of Iran's social religious values.

He added it was interesting for him to see that Iran's Islamic revolution was fruit of religion.

The Italian official said that Iran and Italy could establish cooperation and expand bilateral relations based on their common culture and civilization.

Taqavi in return said that Iran's Islamic revolution was deep rooted in Iranian society's culture and religious beliefs.

He added that the revolution, inspired by Islam, was founded based on thoughts of its architect the late Imam Khomeini and main characteristic of it is mixture of religion and polictics.

Elsewhere in his remarks Taqavi said many of world people's hardships stemmed from the fact that they thought science and technology could provide man with all its needs, but Islamic revolution in Iran indicated that science and technology were not the sole needs of the human beings and sprituality had its own status.

Due to the same reason, he added, Iran's Islamic revolution has drawn world's people's attention.

Continued Coverage of Ugandan Minister's Visit

Discusses Trade Relations, Credit

LD0908184695 Tehran IRNA in English
1756 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 9 (IRNA) — The visiting Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Mosuke and the Iranian Minister of Commerce Yahya ol-Eshaq discussed the two countries' commerce and economic relations in a meeting here today.

Referring to the expanding trade relations between the two countries, Mosuke called for an all-out expansion of cooperation between Iran and his country. By using dlrs. [dollars] 10 million credit granted by the Iranian Government, the way will be paved for removing the Ugandan problems, Mosuke added.

In the meeting, ol-Eshaq expressed the need for using the two countries' potentials to promote trade exchange between Tehran and Kampala. He also announced the Iranian readiness for upgrading an economic cooperation with Uganda.

Will Visit Companies, Monuments

LD0908202395 Tehran IRNA in English
1842 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Esfahan, Esfahan Province, Aug 9 (IRNA) — The visiting Ugandan Prime Minister Kintu Musoke heading a high ranking economic and political delegation arrived here Wednesday [9 August].

While in Esfahan the Ugandan premier and entourage will pay a visit to the Polyacrylate Company, Mubarakeh Steel Complex, Vank Church, and some historic monuments here.

Musoke arrived in Iran on Monday for a five-day visit. While in Tehran he met with Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, First Vice President Hasan Habibi, and other Iranian high ranking officials.

Qatar's Policy on Persian Gulf Relations Praised

NC0708063095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0345 GMT 7 Aug 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Qatari Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani ended his visit to Saudi Arabia yesterday afternoon. This was the first foreign visit by the new Qatari amir since the old amir was ousted in Tir [month ending 22 July].

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Suspicion has long clouded relations between Qatar and Saudi Arabia because of border disputes between the two countries. Qatari officials have repeatedly accused the Saudis of trying to fan the flames of border disputes between the two countries and to impose their views on the other members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council. Some of the small Persian Gulf littoral states have accused Riyadh of trying to gain supremacy in its relations with them by posing as the big brother.

Riyadh has in the past been dissatisfied with the independent foreign policy of the former crown prince and the new amir of Qatar, especially on rapprochement with Tehran and Baghdad. But the Qatari leaders, who have always wanted to play a role independent of Saudi policies, have placed the adoption of a policy on improving and expanding their relations with the various countries on their agenda.

Contrary to the view of the Saudis, who insist that the Iraqi sanctions remain, Doha wants the sanctions lifted and wants new relations with this country. Qatar has often shown that it supports ending tension in the region and establishing a balance in its relations with the other Persian Gulf littoral countries.

Habibi Views Pension Dispute, Environmental Issues

LD0708120295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking to our reporter, cabinet spokesman Hasan Habibi said that the total amount being demanded by the state pension organization from the government is 885 billion rials and added: With the approval, in the recent cabinet session, of the minimum figure [as heard] of the debt owed by the government to the state pension organization, a 20-year long dispute between government financial institutions and the state recruitment and pension administration organization has been resolved.

He said: According to the measure approved by the government, it has been decided that, by the end of the country's second five-year development plan [which came into effect on 21 March 1995], at least 50 percent of the government's debt to the state pension organization will be repaid. The annual level of payment will be 10 percent, that is, 88.5 billion rials.

Habibi added: In order to assist the implementation of this decision and to increase the financial capabilities of the state pension organization, factory shares will also be allocated to that organization, and the state pension organization must indicate, on a yearly basis, shares in which factories it wishes to purchase so that it may be approved by the cabinet.

The first vice president said that one of the other measures approved in last night's cabinet session was the bill on the convention on climatic changes, approved at the UN international conference on the environment held in Brazil. He added: The convention approved by the cabinet, which will be submitted to the Majles for examination, defines international cooperation toward finding solutions to unpredictable problems and preventing the damaging effect of gases on nature and the environment.

Habibi added: In accordance with Article 50 of the Constitution, the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the vanguards of environmental protection efforts and, by using its resources and substituting new sources of energy, such as the use of natural gas, building solar power stations, generating hydroelectric power, and using thermal power, it strives to prevent damage to the environment. [passage omitted]

Political Parties Need No License, Must Obey Law

LD1008131195 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA — Representative of the legislative body at the special commission supervising political parties, 'Ali Movahed Saveji said here on Thursday [10 August] no group is required to obtain licence for political activity.

Speaking to IRNA, he said the political parties respecting the Constitution of the Islamic Republic are free to engage in political activities. However, they should meet the legal criteria envisaged in the law on political parties.

All political parties should submit the required documents to the Interior Ministry and outline their policy and political objectives.

No one could neither impose limitations on a group whose activity is in conformity with the constitutional law nor obligate it to obtain licence.

Saveji however added that those groups which have obtained a licence and submitted the required papers to the commission will have advantage over the others in terms of credibility and legal privileges in calling for rallies or demonstrations.

He said that the Liberation Movement of Iran because of having violated the law in the past is not authorized.

He said the commission is empowered to take legal actions against those parties which have violated the

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law. However, Saveji added, the respective party can lodge an appeal against the ruling of the commission and if they win the case they can continue their activities.

Oil Exports to Germany Show 7% Increase

LD0908221695 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Aug 9 (IRNA) — Germany's oil imports from the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first half of the current year (January to June 1995) reached 958,000 tons worth DM184.5 billion [German marks], up by 7 percent compared to the same period last year.

Iran is among the 11 leading oil suppliers of Germany. Some 97,000 tons of Germany's total oil imports came from Iran during June 1995. According to a report released Tuesday [8 August] by the Germany's Economic Bureau in Schborn City, during the first half of 1995, about 49.7 million tons of oil worth DM9.6 billion were imported by Germany from 17 countries, down by 4.2 percent in terms of weight and 0.4 percent in terms of value compared to the corresponding period the previous year.

The average price of oil imported by Germany during the said period stood at DM192.61 per ton compared with DM192.14 during the similar period in 1994.

During the first six months of 1995, some 38.1 percent of oil imported by Germany came from the North Sea oilfields and 36.2 percent from OPEC countries. Germany's oil imports from Iran in 1994 totalled 1,977 million tons valued at 381,699 million [currency unspecified], down by 20.5 percent compared to 1993.

TV Reports Increase in Export of Non-Oil Goods

LD0808174295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The country's non-oil exports have risen. Figures announced today by the head of the Center for the Expansion of Exports show that in the first quarter of this year over $1.01 billion worth of non-oil goods were exported. In the first quarter of last year, 5 percent less goods were exported. Industrial goods constituted the biggest portion of non-oil exports in that period.

Regarding carpet exports Mr. Sa'idlu said: In the first quarter of this year we had a drop of about $20 million in carpet exports but we will try to pave the way for an increase in carpet exports by solving certain problems. The managing director of the Center for the Expansion of Exports said that the 30 percent drop in the guarantee given by carpet exporters to the banking system was among the decisions made with that aim in mind.

Annual Steel Output Raised to 6 Million Tons

LD0908190295 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Esfahan, Aug 9 (IRNA) — Iran's steel products are exported to 23 countries, Mines and Metals Minister Hoseyn Mahluji announced following his inspection visit to Esfahan Foundry here Tuesday [8 August].

Mahluji said that Iran was capable of producing one million tons in the initial year of the first five-year economic development plan (1989-1994), but the figure has risen up to six million tons annually at present.

Pakistan

Indian Efforts Against U.S. Arms Supplies Decried

BK0908133795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has taken serious exception to Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee's recent unwarranted remarks on the efforts underway in the U.S. Congress on the return of military equipment by the United States purchased by Pakistan prior to October 1990. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today the Indian foreign minister's allegations are contrary to the understanding reached between Pakistan and India during the visit to Pakistan in June 1981 by the then Indian foreign minister and present prime minister, Narasimha Rao, according to which each country has the sovereign right to acquire arms for self-defense.

The spokesman said India is the largest purchaser of arms in the international market and Indian foreign minister's recent visit to Moscow was aimed at acquiring weaponry worth $1.4 billion from Russia. This has been admitted by the foreign minister himself. The spokesman said the return of military equipment purchased by Pakistan from the United States will in no way affect the existence serious military imbalance in South Asia, which was totally in India's favor. In this context, the spokesman invited attention to the letters recently addressed by the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry to the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and by the acting [as heard] secretary of state, Peter Tarnoff, to Senator Sam Nunn. U.S. Defense Secretary Mr. Perry in his letter had categorically stated that the release of the embargoed military equipment purchased by Pakistan before the imposition of Pressler sanctions will not disturb the conventional arms balance in South Asia, which overwhelmingly favors India.

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The spokesman observed India's arms acquisition, its naval buildup, its development and deployment of ballistic missiles pose the greatest threat to the region.

Opposition on 'Failure' of Lobbying Effort in U.S.

BK0908120095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 Aug 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Opposition on Tuesday [8 August] termed "serious setback" and held primarily Pakistan's lobbiest and embassy in US, responsible for failing to get through Senator Hank Brown's amendment in the US Senate aimed at easing the Pressler Amendment in favour of Pakistan.

Striking down the foreign office's response, Pakistan's former ambassador to US Abida Hussain said "Going by US standards there is no guarantee of a legislative move returning once it is deferred."

She said the issue would not resurface before at least 18 months if it was not taken up during the current legislative calender before summer recess. "Deferment of a legislative move is bad" Pakistan Muslim League's [PML] former parliamentarian Abida Hussain told a Press conference here.

She blamed Pakistan's lobbiest Mark Seigel, terming him a costly lobbiest getting about $ one million as salary and strong supporter of Zionist cause responsible for the "setback." It is a clear failure of Pakistan's lobbying efforts, Abida said.

"What do we have a lobbiest for? Why did spend so much public money on him? His role was to tell the embassy there about the Senators from whom to expect resistance and where to work" she added.

Saying this was a "shared failure" Abida blamed the Pakistan embassy as well. "Our ambassador comes from non-parliamentary background having no experience on legal issues. There is no other person at the embassy there to tackle such technical issues", she went on to say.

Abida Hussain said Senate's foreign affairs committee, which is headed by Sartaj Aziz, could help in lobbying for the amendment and it should contact US Senators as "parliamentarian to parliamentarian contact would be more meaningful."

When asked whether the Opposition pressed to recall Pakistan's ambassador to US she said it was the prerogative of the chief executive of the country whom to hold responsible for this.

Abida said Indian lobby was quite active to block the Brown Amendment and had hired the services of an experienced attorney for the purpose. She suggested that Pakistan should also have sent experienced attorney to assist Pakistan embassy there on legal and parliamentary issues.

"This setback belies the government's claims." She said in November 1993, the foreign minister stated that the Pressler Amendment would be withdrawn. People of Pakistan have been kept in dark with the government claims that Pak-US relations have become normal and Pakistan was no longer in isolation, she added.

She said time and again PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders and government officials visited US including Senators Iqbal Haider, Shafqat Mahmood and Aitzaz Ahsan but nobody pursued the cause responsibly to try and counter the Indian opposition.

Regarding the Opposition's reaction to the Brown Amendment Secretary General of PML (N) [Nawaz] said they would wait for a month to see whether the amendment was re-introduced.

Editorial Views Delay in Obtaining U.S. Arms

BK0708124895 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 7 Aug 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan appears to have suffered a major setback in its efforts to get the military equipment worth dollars 370 million that it has already paid for from the United States with the strategy adopted by its supporters in the US Senate and the Administration collapsing in the face of stubborn resistance put up by the opponents. The sponsor of the amendment and the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, eventually had to request the Chair to set aside the motion given its complexity and controversial nature. The amendment proposed by Senator Hank Brown and successfully blocked by Senator Larry Pressler and others opposed to any relaxation of the Pressler Amendment was a far weaker version of the one expected and would not have resulted in the release of military equipment to Pakistan (minus the F-16s) even if it had gone through. All that Senator Brown sought to accomplish via his proposed amendment was to exclude US assistance to Pakistan meant for anti-narcotics, anti-terrorism, humanitarian and peacekeeping purposes from the purview of the Pressler Amendment. And, in essence, as Senator Brown pointed out, this is what the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had agreed to by a 16-2 vote. That even this was not allowed to pass is indicative of the extent of the opposition that the proponents have to contend with.

Pakistan's ambassador to the US has, while speaking to journalists tried to put the development in a positive light by arguing that it was just 'the opening salvo in

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the battle for ending the Pressler sanctions,' pointing out that the opponents preferred to use delaying tactics rather than going for a vote and this indicated that they were unsure of their support. That may be so. The amendment could be appended to the Foreign Operations Bill to be debated by the Senate next month, perhaps with more positive results. But, equally, Senator Pressler and his like-minded colleagues may well use the delay to their advantage and effectively block the effort at the time. They amendment, in any case, does not provide for a one-time exception that would enable Pakistan to take delivery of the military equipment it has already paid for. Given the situation, the Pakistan government should now seriously consider the option of taking the US government as well as the aircraft manufacturers to court on this issue. In this context it is also important to bear in mind that the option may not be available for much longer given the statute of limitations on breach of contract cases. Meanwhile, of course, the effort to resolve the issue with the assistance of supporters in Congress as well as the US administration must continue apace. But given the evident strength of the opposition it would be unwise to rely on this track, exclusively.

U.S. 'Hypocrisy' in Ties With PRC Criticized

BK0508124495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Sino-US Relations: Whose Responsibility?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington continues to display the corner-stone of its foreign policy; create problems, annoy nations and then put the blame on others for international tension. There are many examples which illustrate this behaviour but the Chinese example stands out as the most illustrative of this attitude. There is hardly any excuse of provocation that the United States has not initiated in worsening Sino-US relations. It is well-known fact that Taiwan is a breakaway province of China and Beijing rightly claims it to be a part of China but the United States has consistently infuriated China over this issue. George Bush sold combat weapons to Taiwan and President Clinton, in spite of Chinese protests, allowed Li Teng-hui to visit the United States. Then, Harry Wu, an American citizen of Chinese origin, was sent to China under "a false identity" which Chinese claim was meant for espionage and stealing secret documents. But when the Chinese government arrested him for these activities, the Americans raised the bogey of violation of Human Rights. In addition to these provocations, the United States is working openly against the Chinese interests and territorial integrity. China is accused of selling nuclear weapons to Iran, Burma, and Pakistan. Washington opposed China's entry into the new World Trade Organisation. China's nuclear tests are criticised while the US is working on a security relationship with India which is not only a nuclear power but also has long been regarded as a potential threat to China. The US is threatening that it would not accept disruption of navigation in the South China Sea, where China and the Philippines have rival territorial claims in the Spratly Islands. So much so that even the Hong Kong issue which has absolutely nothing to do with Washington has not been spared of American mischief-mongering. This long list of American provocations is by no means exhaustive from trade to diplomacy, from China, international affairs to its international relations, almost every aspect of China's existence is being used by the Americans for some ulterior motives. The most recent case was of spying when two American pilots were caught red-handed engaged in activities which would annoy any country. Then the state department turns around and blames China for worsening relations between the two countries.

The United States need some very basic lessons in international relations. They must understand that if by some accident of history, they have emerged as the sole superpower in today's world, it does not give them a license to go around intimidating and provoking those countries which are peace-loving and minding their own business. Whose permission the Americans seek in strengthening the hands of totalitarian regimes, in doling out billions of dollars' worth economic and military aid to those countries who are notoriously engaged in committing the worst crimes against humanity? Clinton should look in his neighbourhood for the abuses of human rights and must come face to face with the reality that under what logic or morality, he plans to veto the bill passed by the congress to lift arms embargo on Bosnia. What he is doing is nothing more than revealing his incompetence to comprehend the major issue that involves the global community. Such tirades against China will not take him very far but would indeed convince the world community that Washington has not given up its search for enemies-imaginary or real. The real enemy is within that system which allows such double standards and such hypocrisy that the annals of history have seldom revealed.

China knows that and irrespective of what the American President says or does, he cannot alter the course of history which is destined to honour China as giant of Asia. And so far as the relations between the two countries are concerned, it is as much a responsibility of the Chinese as that of the Americans. In the present situation, however, the blames would indeed be on the Americans.

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PAF Mulls Possibility of Aircraft Project With PRC

BK0708123995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 7 Aug 95 pp 1, 10

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — In a bid to assess the possibility of entering into a joint venture with China for developing and manufacturing a fighter aircraft, Pakistan Air Force [PAF] has formed "a team of air force experts" to evaluate the total package of the Super-7 aircraft.

According to informed officials, the team headed by a 2-staff Air Force officer will also prepare a feasibility report on setting up an "Aircraft Design Centre" at Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra.

"The Air Force experts will also report by end-October this year on the assembling and sub-assembling of Super-7 parts and their production in Pakistan" said the sources.

With a bright chance of entering the aircraft development and manufacturing field, Pakistani officials hope that not only the parts, but the fuselage and engine of such an aircraft will be made in Pakistan, once Pakistan and China sign an agreement, for which experts of both the countries are holding regular consultations.

"The Air Force team is also considering an option for Pakistan to enter into the field of designing, testing and modifying of the Super-7 fighter aircraft" said the sources, who expressed the hope that the Super-7 project will be a unique project in the history of this country.

Though the project will be based in China, the main emphasis of the exercise is that Pakistan should enter in the field of medium-tech aircraft rather then acquiring 70 to 80 vintage aircraft.

"The Air Force experts are putting in their best to come out with a good project before Pakistan and China sign an agreement for joint development of Super-7," said the sources.

In a related development several teams of Pakistan Air Force are visiting European countries to look into the option of buying used or new Mirage aircraft for air defence and enhancing capability of PAF. "Nothing has been finalised in the context of the Mirage aircraft in which case Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak is the ultimate authority to decide the matter" said defence sources.

Some reports sponsored by brokers had recently appeared, giving an impression that perhaps PAF is buying 80 Mirage 2000-5 with a cost of more than $80 million per piece. The Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) had already allocated $3 billion in 1994 for purchase of aircraft for PAF. Basically, according to official sources, the money was allocated by DCC for purchasing Su-27 aircraft, but Russians had shown reluctance in offering soft loans or to accept deferred payments.

The same money, said the sources, is still available with the PAF for purchasing aircraft from non-American sources "It is now up to the Air Chief to utilize this amount for the best available option," added the sources.

However, it is understood that Pakistan is not narrowing down its options as yet, but to keep all of its options open so that PAF should be equipped with frontline aircraft, given the threat perception.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani will proceed to Hawaii towards the end of this month for attending the 50th anniversary of end of second world war in the pacific. "The Minister will also exchange views with US Defence Secretary William Perry and it is understood that Pak-US defence relations will come up for brief exchange of views," said official sources. The Minister will also spend two days in Manila while returning to Pakistan after attending the Hawaii function.

Parliamentarian Denies Link to Kashmir Kidnappers

BK0908153495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, has taken note of the efforts in India and the Indian press to link him to the so-called Al-Faran organization that has allegedly kidnapped some tourists in Indian-occupied Kashmir. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said these reports are totally baseless, fabricated, and ill-intentioned. He said he has no links to the so-called Al-Faran organization and has not proposed any mediation for the release of the abducted tourists.

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